

السنة ١٤١٥ هـ

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR

THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,862

FRIDAY 5 MARCH 1999

(1R50p) 45p

SO FAREWELL THEN, NEWS
3 TEN BRIAN VINER
REVIEW FRONT

JAGGER'S BLUES

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN OUR UNRIVALLED MUSIC SECTION



This is the punishment for Anglo-Saxons who sold us all'

JUCY HANNAN
and National Forest,

"PHOTOGRAPHS had been taken with care and had come sharp. One was of a silver gorilla and the other a her. They were taken by and meant to be me of an exciting holiday. I turned over the began to grasp the darkness of what hap- at Bwindi. re, in black ink, in ed schoolboy French, e note at the back of the photo: 'This is the pun- it for Anglo-Saxons who paid us all to protect the sony and oppress the less ty.' I'd then at the back of the gisher print: 'Here is the of all the Anglo-Saxons who ray us to the Nilotics (but- against the Bantu culti- ters (the Hutu). If you do not understand this lesson it's be- cause you don't want to un- derstand - but you will understand the forces of na- ture.' The photographer is now dead, along with the seven others who were marched away to be butchered in the jungle. They were hacked down from behind by machetes carried to clear a path through the jungle. Holding the photographs, I thought of the cold brutality with which the killers chopped down their victims and then calmly sat down to pen these long, defiant mes- sages to the outside world. Then I looked around at what had been left behind by those men and women, fright- ened and some of them crying, as they were led off. There was a future list for Wolverhampton Wanderers, and then, over

*Voilà Punition
des Anglo-saxons
qui nous ont
vendus (.) nous
protéger la mi-
norité et nous
opprimer la
MAJORITE.*

A message found on the body of one of the eight tourists murdered in the Bwindi National Park. It translates: 'This is the punishment for the Anglo-Saxons who sold us out. You are protecting the minority and oppressing the majority.' Right: Ugandan soldiers guarding one of the tourist camp-sites attacked by the Hutu marauders on Monday. AP/Reuters



there, the stub of a ticket to see Shakespeare in Love at a cinema in Putney, London. Thrown on the floor were cas- settes of Crowded House and a mountaineering magazine called Get High. Little touches of lives of ordinary people which had been tossed away by the gunmen as they rummaged through the huts. We had come down to the Im- penetrable Forest in a troop- carrying helicopter accompanied by a platoon of soldiers in cam- ouflage nervously fingering semi-automatic rifles. After

landing, as we made our jour- ney along a track to the safari camps, a group of villagers came out to watch. They had seen a lot of men with guns re- cently. The officers tried to re- assure them that this time they had nothing to fear. Then there we were, in among the huts where the Hutu militia had descended that morning to begin a nightmare. There lay the upturned skele- ton of a burnt-out truck, the kind of thing one might see in a bad road accident. But this one had been deliberately set

on fire and rolled on to the body of Paul Wagaba, the commu- nity warden, one of the few who had managed to return fire be- fore the camp was over- whelmed. "He was a brave man," whispered a young war- den, and crossed himself. There were other burnt-out wrecks of four-wheel drives, and there were the huts with the roofs burnt out and looking out into a vivid blue, cloudless sky, and a few bits of furniture which had been smashed by the raiders, perhaps frustrated at not finding more loot.

The air around us hung heavy and stagnant. Looking up from the campsite, the hills appeared steep and uncon- promising. It would have been a hard climb for the hostages as they were pushed and prodded up that path, not knowing what was to happen to them. Jeremiah Twimujuni was there when the rebels came. He spoke softly, pausing some- times as images of the night came racing into his mind. "There were women, women among the rebels. They were shouting 'Zana mafuranga,'

Kinyarwanda for "Bring money". They dressed ordi- nary like civilians, but they were carrying guns, machetes and hammers. They were breaking down doors, they were screaming. "I ran into the bush to hide. But I could see what they were doing. They were setting fire to the buildings and the trucks and then they killed Paul Wagaba and burned his body..." His voice faded away to a whisper. Alongside him, Chris Oryema remembers the red head- bands of the rebels dancing in

front of his eyes in the night lit by burning cars. "There were about 200 of them," he said. "They were all quite young, none of them over 30. They were vicious. I just jumped out of the window and rolled into the bush and I am alive now." Lieutenant-Colonel Benon Biraro looked up into the canopy of the forest and said: "We shall find them, catch them and if necessary kill them. They are going into the Congo. We have followed them there." Then, taking a deep breath, he outlined what had happened after the rebels had taken the hostages. "After getting the tourists in the morning we know two or three women couldn't cope, they couldn't climb the hill, they pleaded with the rebels and were released. But then we know there were two other women who also had problems walking the hill. This was the first group that was killed, including a man." In a concerted operation by Rwandan and Ugandan troops, 15 Hutu rebels of the gang which murdered the tourists were killed in an ambush inside

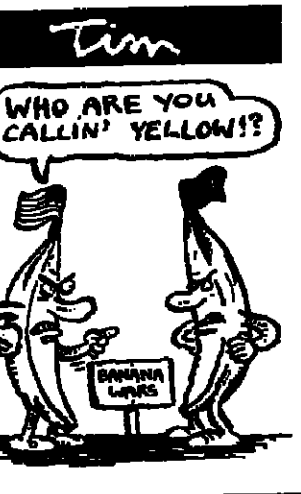
British fury at US over 'banana war'

IN AN unprecedented move, the United States ambassador was called to the Department of Trade and Industry last night to hear government protests at trade sanctions imposed by the US in a row over bananas. Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the ambassador, Philip Lader, that the Government "deplored" the US "unilateral action in imposing a 100 per cent tariff on luxury goods from the European Union, including British cashmere. British taxpayers may now have to pay up to £17m to protect about 500 jobs in the cash- mere industry in the Scottish Borders after the Government refused to pay the duty. Downing Street officials protested directly to the White House, but there was no contact between Tony Blair and Pres- ident Bill Clinton on the issue. Mr Blair, who this week ad- vised Europe to follow the US way on economic reform, said on a visit to Scotland: "We must make sure this is resolved... No one should be in any doubt about our determination to make sure... jobs are protected"

BY COLIN BROWN,
STEPHEN CASTLE
AND ANDREW MARSHALL

The flashpoint for the trade row was America's failure this week to win World Trade Or- ganisation (WTO) backing for its demand that the EU drop tariffs on large-scale Central America producers' exports of bananas - which are mainly owned by US corporations. The US complained of unfair trade restrictions against its producers compared with the

smaller Caribbean banana producers, who can export tariff- free to the EU. Because of historical colonial links to the island communities, many EU countries want to protect them from the economic damage of direct competition. Rather than wait for a WTO ruling, which it promised "soon" after 15 March, the US imposed a 100 per cent tariff yesterday on selected EU lux- ury goods, from Italian hand- bags to pecorino cheese. Brussels reacted with fury, ac- cusing Washington of breaching WTO rules. "The international trading system only works if all coun- tries fulfil their obligations," said Ambassador Peter Scher, US special trade negotiator, an- nouncing the sanctions. EU negotiators believe the US has struck such an aggres- sive position on a relatively in- significant dispute to lay down a marker in looming clashes over US-produced hormone- treated beef and genetically modified crops and foods. Banana wars, page 3



Bramleys face child abduction charges

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A COUPLE who went on the run for 17 weeks with their two foster children are to be charged with abduction, police said yesterday. Jeff and Jenny Bramley dis- appeared from their home in Cambridgeshire last Septem- ber, hours after they were due to return the two little girls to social services. They reappeared last Janu- ary and after a private hearing in the High Court, a judge ruled that it was in the interests of Jade Bennett, five, and her half-sister Hannah, three, that the Bramleys be granted tem- porary custody. But to the surprise of many of those close to the case, Cam- bridgeshire police issued a statement yesterday, saying: "A married couple, aged 35, are to be charged with child ab- duction, the Crown Prosecution Service has advised."



The couple will appear in court on a date to be fixed. Cambridgeshire social services declined to comment. But a police source close to the case admitted there was "great surprise" that the CPS had decided to proceed with the case. Abduction carries a max- imum seven-year sentence. A spokesman for the Na- tional Association of Probation Officers said that the case was "unique". The Bramleys disappeared after social services refused them permission to adopt the girls they had been fostering for seven months with a view

I'M moving

From next Monday you'll find Trevor McDonald at 6.30, not 10pm. Which means there's new room for uninterrupted films, dramas and edgier shows. All followed by a later news as well as 11pm, with Dermot Mulroney.

tv gets better

TEV

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Blow to Livingstone
Ken Livingstone's plans to be London's Mayor are said to be in ruins
Home P2

Shreeen hit by E Coli
Three children are seriously ill with E Coli
Home P4

INSIDE THE REVIEW

EU job for Patten
Chris Patten could become Europe's new foreign policy supremo
Foreign P13

Kosovo stand-off
A tense stand-off was under way in Kosovo
Foreign P14

Jobs losses at Rolls
Rolls-Royce, the aero- engine maker, is to shed a further 2,000 jobs
Business P18

Palace debts crisis
Crystal Palace face debts of £20m
Sport P30

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Australia ... 6.50 AS
Austria ... 40.00 AS
Belgium ... 30.00 AS
Canada ... 3.50 AS
Czech Republic ... 1.20 AS
Denmark ... 12.00 AS
France ... 18.00 AS
Germany ... 16.00 AS
Greece ... 4.50 AS
Hungary ... 20.00 AS
Italy ... 12.00 AS
Japan ... 5.00 AS
Netherlands ... 6.00 AS
Norway ... 2.50 AS
Poland ... 3.50 AS
Portugal ... 3.50 AS
Russia ... 3.50 AS
Spain ... 3.50 AS
Sweden ... 3.50 AS
Switzerland ... 3.50 AS
Turkey ... 1.20 AS
USA ... 1.20 AS

POP v Posh

Has pop dumbed down, or is that really a dumb question?
Features P8

Mass extinction
Species are at risk from destruction of habitats
Science P9

TODAY'S TELEVISION

9 770957 946559

LETTERS 2, LEADERS & COMMENT 3-5, OBITUARIES 6-7, FEATURES 8, SCIENCE 9, ARTS 10, ROCK & POP 11-13, CLASSICAL 14



WITH THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Master strokes: the century's most beautiful fashion, by couture's greatest artist

IN THE MAGAZINE

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MURRAY, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SU SANN AU FRANKEL, BRIAN VINEY, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITMAN SMITH

ANNA PAVORD
IN THE GARDEN
BOYD TONKIN
ON HAROLD BLOOM
PLUS ARTS,
BOOKS, TRAVEL

Livingstone's mayoral bid is 'buried'

KEN LIVINGSTONE'S hopes of becoming Mayor of London are "dead and buried" according to senior Labour figures who claim he has breached party rules in his campaign to stand for the top post.

Party sources confirmed to *The Independent* that the former Greater London Council leader has ruined his chances by failing to meet Millbank guidelines on campaign spending and materials.

The Brent East MP launched his "Let Ken Stand" bid last month with full-page adverts in the *London Evening Standard*, leaflets and a rally attended by 1,200 people.

But party officials believe that the campaign, together with Mr Livingstone's political record, contravenes strict guidelines drawn up to ensure that no one can "buy" their way in any Labour contest.

A detailed charge sheet has been drawn up that alleges "Red Ken" has breached seven out of nine specific rules covering Greater London Assembly candidates.

The confidential rules, which are only available to those in the party who are involved in the process and certain to be extended to the mayoral contest, insist that all campaign materials have to be approved, forbid newspaper ads and limit spending to £1,000. Only two mailshots are likely to be allowed in the mayoral race.

Officials say that Mr Livingstone has admitted raising £3,400, has used newspaper ads and sent out a leaflet to all Labour councillors across London detailing his manifesto, "Let Ken Stand" t-shirts, badges and leaflets fall foul of the guidelines on spending and materials, they say.

Officials also allege that he

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

has breached Rule 4 of the candidates' code of conduct, which states that no candidate should issue statements to the media about any aspect of the selection procedure.

The MP has frequently attacked the suggestion that a vetting panel of 16 party figures should be allowed to prevent him putting his name on ballot papers for London's 69,000 Labour members.



Ken Livingstone: Labour claims he breached rules

Millbank further alleges that the MP has disqualified himself on two elements of the personal specification for candidates. These insist on a "commitment to party policy and programme and campaigns" and a "commitment to the principle of a Greater London Assembly and Directly Elected Mayor".

The detailed rule breaches, taken with Mr Livingstone's potentially low score on a "loyalty test", mean that he is not likely to even make the longlist for interviews for the mayoral candidacy, it is claimed.

A National Executive Committee source said: "He has put himself outside the rules on this." Another said: "After launching this campaign, he's dead and buried. He's given us all the ammunition we needed."

A party insider said Mr Livingstone's appeal for public funds left him open to the charge that Labour's political opponents could be supporting his campaign and try to influence an internal party matter.

"He has clearly breached the spirit of the rules. The rules are drawn up in the first place to make sure that no one can buy their way into any election within the party. That means no posters, ads, or non-approved material."

"The scoring system is systematic, not drawn up arbitrarily - and on loyalty and commitment to the principle of a Mayor, he scores abysmally."

The party has already used its Excalibur rebuttal computer, which was devised to attack the Tories in opposition, to find quotes from House of Commons speeches, media comments and press articles for evidence of his disloyalty.

Although Labour has yet to formally draw up its selection procedure, it is being stressed that the Livingstone campaign is clearly aimed at influencing such a contest.

Last night, Mr Livingstone insisted that he was not campaigning for the mayoralty but simply for his right to stand.

"As soon as the Millbank mafia make clear I'm allowed to stand, my campaign will stop. Once the rules are extended, I will obey them," he said. "The machinations of these anonymous spin doctors run the risk of us losing the mayoralty. If they rig the ballot, there is a chance Labour will lose."



Tony Blair at Yarrow's shipyard in Glasgow. He is offering the Scottish Parliament more leeway Colin Templeton

'Control freak' Blair seeks a softer look with Scottish trip

BY ANDREW GRICE
AND STEPHEN GOODWIN

As Mr Blair began a two-day visit to Scotland yesterday, his allies conceded that "Scottish" problems will require Scottish solutions. They cited issues such as land reform and the drug-abuse crisis north of the border.

Aides insisted that "Scottish New Labour" would still be acting in tune with the values of the Labour Party by producing distinctive policies. "Many of the problems are the same throughout the UK, but others will require different answers," said one.

Mr Blair's change of emphasis at today's Glasgow conference will be coupled with another strong attack on the Scottish National Party, which is on course to win a sizeable presence in the first elections to the Edinburgh Parliament in May.

The Prime Minister will also be anxious to tackle confusion among the public about the voting system to be used in the elections and growing fears in the Labour hierarchy that it will damage the party's prospects.

Despite a £25m government "education" campaign, voters are thought not to fully understand the two-question system intended to produce a better balance between parties.

Vote one will be cast in the traditional first-past-the-post way for a named candidate and the second for regional party lists.

But a Labour source said there was still confusion, with people believing the second vote should be for a "second-choice" party.

Strategists fear this would mean second votes in normally solid Labour areas in the country's central belt going to the SNP.

Brushing aside a poll suggesting most Scots want him to keep out of the election campaign, the Prime Minister was in Glasgow yesterday meeting factory workers.

The committee chairman, Donald Anderson, was writing to Mr Cook to ask when he received the three reports. The committee was also writing to MPs and officials linked with the first inquiry to ask if they had been responsible for the further leaks.

Cook admits three leaks

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

THE LEAKING of a Commons committee report on Sierra Leone was one of no fewer than three such breaches, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, admitted last night.

An official inquiry was already under way after it emerged that a member of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs had given ministers a sensitive report on the arms-to-Africa affair before its publication. Last night, a further leak inquiry was launched.

The Conservatives described the leaks as "blatant contempt for Parliament and the democratic process". The Foreign Secretary's admission came in a written answer to David Wiltshire, the Tory MP for Spelthorne. He said he had also seen drafts of reports on European Union enlargement and on human rights.

Ernie Ross, a member of the committee and Labour MP for Dundee West, resigned last week after admitting to the leaking of the report on the sale of weapons to Sierra Leone.

When Mr Ross first made his admission Mr Cook said the MP was not the only one to leak. Details of the report in *The Independent* four days before its publication had not come from the Foreign Office, he insisted.

In last night's answer Mr Cook said he had seen the human rights report himself, the enlargement report was seen only by officials and Derek Ratchett, Foreign Office minister.

"No action was taken to publish or disclose any part of these reports, or to interfere in any way with the preparation of the committee's deliberations on them," Mr Cook said.

The committee chairman, Donald Anderson, was writing to Mr Cook to ask when he received the three reports. The committee was also writing to MPs and officials linked with the first inquiry to ask if they had been responsible for the further leaks.



2 year diplomas.

- Sharpen your career skills
- Make more of your personal interests

You can get a qualification from one of Britain's top universities in just two years without the need to give up work or family commitments.

OU diplomas are available in: Computing, Science, Arts, Mathematics, Environment, Information Technology, Modern Languages, Management, Social Sciences and English Language.

We'll give you all the support you need. With our own unique method of study - OU supported open learning. We'll give you a personal tutor for individual help and advice. You'll get the chance to meet your fellow students. And we'll supply you with learning resources of the highest standard. It's real value for money and you can pay by instalments.

Send for your free prospectus now.

Send for: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

☐ Please send me a copy of the Courses, Diplomas and BAIS Degrees prospectus

☐ Please send me a copy of the postgraduate prospectus

☐ Tick here if you have contacted the OU in the past.

Title: _____ Initials: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ Date of Birth: _____

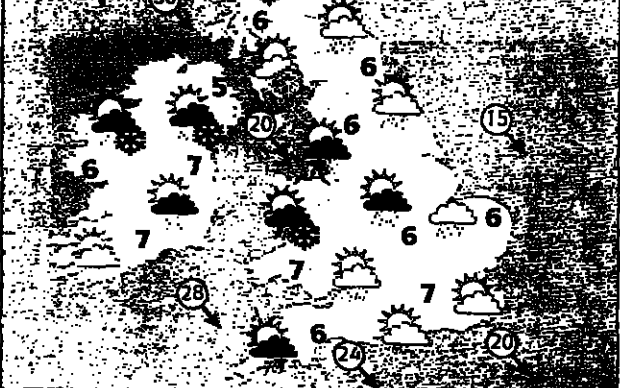
OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 9000 301

Website: www.open.ac.uk/oudev/

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE



KEY: 14 Temperature °C, 30 Wind speed, mph and direction



FORECAST

General situation: Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cold with a brisk north-west wind bringing sunny spells and heavy wintry showers, although sheltered parts of south-west Scotland may stay dry. Eastern Scotland will be rather more cloudy with occasional rain and hail-snow, especially in the north-east. England and Wales will also have a chilly day with sunny intervals and scattered heavy showers, although towards the south coast it should stay largely dry. Parts of eastern England may have some more persistent rain and sleet for a time.

Channel Is, SW & NW England, Wales, N Midlands, Lake Dist, Isle of Man, N Ireland: Cold and blustery with sunny spells and scattered heavy showers. The showers will be wintry over higher ground. A fresh north-west wind. Max temp 6°C (43-48°F).

London, SE & East of England, S Midlands: Rather cloudy in the eastern fringes at first with some patchy rain or sleet, but brighter skies will spread from the west to leave sunny spells and scattered showers. The moderate north-west wind will make it feel cold. Max temp 5-6°C (41-45°F).

E Anglia, E England, Cent & NE England: Largely cloudy and cold with limited sunny spells and a few showers of rain, sleet and hail-snow, especially towards the coast. A moderate north-west wind. Max temp 5-7°C (41-45°F).

Glasgow, SW & NW Scotland, W Isles: Cold with sunny intervals and blustery wintry showers. Most of the showers will be towards the north and west coast with drifting snow over the mountains. A strong north-west wind. Max temp 4-7°C (39-45°F).

Edinburgh, Aberdeen, SE & NE Scotland, N Isles: A few sunny intervals, but cold with a lot of cloud and some patchy rain, sleet and wet snow. A moderate wind, mainly north-easterly. Max temp 4-7°C (39-45°F).

Tomorrow will be cold again with sunny spells and showers after an early frost in places. Most of the showers will be in the north and west with sleet over the hills. Sunday will be similar, although any showers in the south will die out.

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Bypass: A101, A102, A103, A104, A105, A106, A107, A108, A109, A110, A111, A112, A113, A114, A115, A116, A117, A118, A119, A120, A121, A122, A123, A124, A125, A126, A127, A128, A129, A130, A131, A132, A133, A134, A135, A136, A137, A138, A139, A140, A141, A142, A143, A144, A145, A146, A147, A148, A149, A150, A151, A152, A153, A154, A155, A156, A157, A158, A159, A160, A161, A162, A163, A164, A165, A166, A167, A168, A169, A170, A171, A172, A173, A174, A175, A176, A177, A178, A179, A180, A181, A182, A183, A184, A185, A186, A187, A188, A189, A190, A191, A192, A193, A194, A195, A196, A197, A198, A199, A200, A201, A202, A203, A204, A205, A206, A207, A208, A209, A210, A211, A212, A213, A214, A215, A216, A217, A218, A219, A220, A221, A222, A223, A224, A225, A226, A227, A228, A229, A230, A231, A232, A233, A234, A235, A236, A237, A238, A239, A240, A241, A242, A243, A244, A245, A246, A247, A248, A249, A250, A251, A252, A253, A254, A255, A256, A257, A258, A259, A260, A261, A262, A263, A264, A265, A266, A267, A268, A269, A270, A271, A272, A273, A274, A275, A276, A277, A278, A279, A280, A281, A282, A283, A284, A285, A286, A287, A288, A289, A290, A291, A292, A293, A294, A295, A296, A297, A298, A299, A300, A301, A302, A303, A304, A305, A306, A307, A308, A309, A310, A311, A312, A313, A314, A315, A316, A317, A318, A319, A320, A321, A322, A323, A324, A325, A326, A327, A328, A329, A330, A331, A332, A333, A334, A335, A336, A337, A338, A339, A340, A341, A342, A343, A344, A345, A346, A347, A348, A349, A350, A351, A352, A353, A354, A355, A356, A357, A358, A359, A360, A361, A362, A363, A364, A365, A366, A367, A368, A369, A370, A371, A372, A373, A374, A375, A376, A377, A378, A379, A380, A381, A382, A383, A384, A385, A386, A387, A388, A389, A390, A391, A392, A393, A394, A395, A396, A397, A398, A399, A400, A401, A402, A403, A404, A405, A406, A407, A408, A409, A410, A411, A412, A413, A414, A415, A416, A417, A418, A419, A420, A421, A422, A423, A424, A425, A426, A427, A428, A429, A430, A431, A432, A433, A434, A435, A436, A437, A438, A439, A440, A441, A442, A443, A444, A445, A446, A447, A448, A449, A450, A451, A452, A453, A454, A455, A456, A457, A458, A459, A460, A461, A462, A463, A464, A465, A466, A467, A468, A469, A470, A471, A472, A473, A474, A475, A476, A477, A478, A479, A480, A481, A482, A483, A484, A485, A486, A487, A488, A489, A490, A491, A492, A493, A494, A495, A496, A497, A498, A499, A500, A501, A502, A503, A504, A505, A506, A507, A508, A509, A510, A511, A512, A513, A514, A515, A516, A517, A518, A519, A520, A521, A522, A523, A524, A525, A526, A527, A528, A529, A530, A531, A532, A533, A534, A535, A536, A537, A538, A539, A540, A541, A542, A543, A544, A545, A546, A547, A548, A549, A550, A551, A552, A553, A554, A555, A556, A557, A558, A559, A560, A561, A562, A563, A564, A565, A566, A567, A568, A569, A570, A571, A572, A573, A574, A575, A576, A577, A578, A579, A580, A581, A582, A583, A584, A585, A586, A587, A588, A589, A590, A591, A592, A593, A594, A595, A596, A597, A598, A599, A600, A601, A602, A603, A604, A605, A606, A607, A608, A609, A610, A611, A612, A613, A614, A615, A616, A617, A618, A619, A620, A621, A622, A623, A624, A625, A626, A627, A628, A629, A630, A631, A632, A633, A634, A635, A636, A637, A638, A639, A640, A641, A642, A643, A644, A645, A646, A647, A648, A649, A650, A651, A652, A653, A654, A655, A656, A657, A658, A659, A660, A661, A662, A663, A664, A665, A666, A667, A668, A669, A670, A671, A672, A673, A674, A675, A676, A677, A678, A679, A680, A681, A682, A683, A684, A685, A686, A687, A688, A689, A690, A691, A692, A693, A694, A695, A696, A697, A698, A699, A700, A701, A702, A703, A704, A705, A706, A707, A708, A709, A710, A711, A712, A713, A714, A715, A716, A717, A718, A719, A720, A721, A722, A723, A724, A725, A726, A727, A728, A729, A730, A731, A732, A733, A734, A735, A736, A737, A738, A739, A740, A741, A742, A743, A744, A745, A746, A747, A748, A749, A750, A751, A752, A753, A754, A755, A756, A757, A758, A759, A760, A761, A762, A763, A764, A765, A766, A767, A768, A769, A770, A771, A772, A773, A774, A775, A776, A777, A778, A779, A780, A781, A782, A783, A784, A785, A786, A787, A788, A789, A790, A791, A792, A793, A794, A795, A796, A797, A798, A799, A800, A801, A802, A803, A804, A805, A806, A807, A808, A809, A810, A811, A812, A813, A814, A815, A816, A817, A818, A819, A820, A821, A822, A823, A824, A825, A826, A827, A828, A829, A830, A831, A832, A833, A834, A835, A836, A837, A838, A839, A840, A841, A842, A843, A844, A845, A846, A847, A848, A849, A850, A851, A852, A853, A854, A855, A856, A857, A858, A859, A860, A861, A862, A863, A864, A865, A866, A867, A868, A869, A870, A871, A872, A873, A874, A875, A876, A877, A878, A879, A880, A881, A882, A883, A884, A885, A886, A887, A888, A889, A890, A891, A892, A893, A894, A895, A896, A897, A898, A899, A900, A901, A902, A903, A904, A905, A906, A907, A908, A909, A910, A911, A912, A913, A914, A915, A916, A917, A918, A919, A920, A921, A922, A923, A924, A925, A926, A927, A928, A929, A930, A931, A932, A933, A934, A935, A936, A937, A938, A939, A940, A941, A942, A943, A944, A945, A946, A947, A948, A949, A950, A951, A952, A953, A954, A955, A956, A957, A958, A959, A960, A961, A962, A963, A964, A965, A966, A967, A968, A969, A970, A971, A972, A973, A974, A975, A976, A977, A978, A979, A980, A981, A982, A983, A984, A985, A986, A987, A988, A989, A990, A991, A992, A993, A994, A995, A996, A997, A998, A999, A1000, A1001, A1002, A1003, A1004, A1005, A1006, A1007, A1008, A1009, A1010, A1011, A1012, A1013, A1014, A1015, A1016, A1017, A1018, A1019, A1020, A1021, A1022, A1023, A1024, A1025, A1026, A1027, A1028, A1029, A1030, A1031, A1032, A1033, A1034, A1035, A1036, A1037, A1038, A1039, A1040, A1041, A1042, A1043, A1044, A1045, A1046, A1047, A1048, A1049, A1050, A1051, A1052, A1053, A1054, A1055, A1056, A1057, A1058, A1059, A1060, A1061, A1062, A1063, A1064, A1065, A1066, A1067, A1068, A1069, A1070, A1071, A1072, A1073, A1074, A1075, A1076, A1077, A1078, A1079, A1080, A1081, A1082, A1083, A1084, A1085, A1086, A1087, A1088, A1089, A1090, A1091, A1092, A1093, A1094, A1095, A1096, A1097, A1098, A1099, A1100, A1101, A1102, A1103, A1104, A1105, A1106, A1107, A1108, A1109, A1110, A1111, A1112, A1113, A1114, A1115, A1116, A1117, A1118, A1119, A1120, A1121, A1122, A1123, A1124, A1125, A1126, A1127, A1128, A1129, A1130, A1131, A1132, A1133, A1134, A1135, A1136, A1137, A1138, A1139, A1140, A1141, A1142, A1143, A1144, A1145, A1146, A1147, A1148, A1149, A1150, A1151, A1152, A1153, A1154, A1155, A1156, A1157, A1158, A1159, A1160, A1161, A1162, A1163, A1164, A1165, A1166, A1167, A1168, A1169, A1170, A1171, A1172, A1173, A1174, A1175, A1176, A1177, A1178, A1179, A1180, A1181, A1182, A1183, A1184, A1185, A1186, A1187, A1188, A1189, A1190, A1191, A1192, A1193, A1194, A1195, A1196, A1197, A1198, A1199, A1200, A1201, A1202, A1203, A1204, A1205, A1206, A1207, A1208, A1209, A1210, A1211, A1212, A1213, A1214, A1215, A1216, A1217, A1218, A1219, A1220, A1221, A1222, A1223, A1224, A1225, A1226, A1227, A1228, A1229, A1230, A1231, A1232, A1233, A1234, A1235, A1236, A1237, A1238, A1239, A1240, A1241, A1242, A1243, A1244, A1245, A1246, A1247, A1248, A1249, A1250, A1251, A1252, A1253, A1254, A1255, A1256, A1257, A1258, A1259, A1260, A1261, A1262, A1263, A1264, A1265, A1266, A1267, A1268, A1269, A1270, A1271, A1272, A1273, A1274, A1275, A1276, A1277, A1278, A1279, A1280, A1281, A1282, A1283, A1284, A1285, A1286, A1287, A1288, A1289, A1290, A1291, A1292, A1293, A1294, A1295, A1296, A1297, A1298, A1299, A1300, A1301, A1302, A1303, A1304, A1305, A1306, A1307, A1308, A1309, A1310, A1311, A1312, A1313, A1314, A1315, A1316, A1317, A1318, A1319, A1320, A1321, A1322, A1323, A1324, A1325, A1326, A1327, A1328, A1329, A1330, A1331, A1332, A1333, A1334, A1335, A1336, A1337, A1338, A1339, A1340, A1341, A1342, A1343, A1344, A1345, A1346, A1347, A1348, A1349, A1350, A1351, A1352, A1353, A1354, A1355, A1356, A1357, A1358, A1359, A1360, A1361, A1362, A1363, A1364, A1365, A1366, A1367, A1368, A1369, A1370, A1371, A1372, A1373, A1374, A1375, A1376, A1377, A1378, A1379, A1380, A1381, A1382, A1383, A1384, A1385, A1386, A1387, A1388, A1389, A1390, A1391, A1392, A1393, A1394, A1395, A1396, A1397, A1398, A1399, A1400, A1401, A1402, A1403, A1404, A1405, A1406, A1407, A1408, A1409, A1410, A1411, A1412, A1413, A1414, A1415, A1416, A1417, A1418, A1419, A1420, A1421, A1422, A1423, A1424, A1425, A1426, A1427, A1428, A1429, A1430, A1431, A1432, A1433, A1434, A1435, A1436, A1437, A1438, A1439, A1440, A1441, A1442, A1443, A1444, A1445, A1446, A1447, A1448, A1449, A1450, A1451, A

From St Lucia to Scotland, jobs are put at risk in banana war

By JACK O'SULLIVAN

"HOW DO you tell people that a thousand jobs might be lost over a bunch of bananas?" asked Rony Rathie, production manager of Johnstons, a cashmere knitwear factory in the Scottish borders town of Hawick, as news of the "banana war" emerged yesterday.

It is an extraordinary trade dispute, which has seen the US ambassador carpeted by British government and has apparently brought the Bill Clinton/Tony Blair love-in to the verge of a diplomatic incident.

Fears were obvious yesterday in Hawick. "We have 500 cashmere sweaters all packed up ready to go to the States on Monday morning," said Mr Rathie. "Right now, I don't know what to do. We can probably manage for now but if this dispute drags on we will lose customers forever."

The town of Hawick - population 16,000 - boasts major export brands such as Pringle and is dominated by the cashmere woollen industry. Local people find it hard to fathom why their sweaters, selling for up to £200 each in prestige stores, have been targeted for huge hikes in US import taxes.

Washington has warned that the duty, effectively doubling prices, will apply on a host of goods from 15 March unless the European Union ends discrimination against banana sales from Latin America. They say the EU unfairly favours fruit from the Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific.

It sounds like a minor dispute. But long-standing colonial ties explain the trenchant French and British support for bananas from these regions. It is cheaper, and more acceptable to the political left, than expanding overseas aid. European companies such as Ryffles, which dominate exports, also benefit. The Germans would prefer cheaper bananas from Central America, but so far the French and British view has prevailed.

Meanwhile, the Americans back their Central American banana-producing neighbours



Bananas have brought Tony Blair and Bill Clinton to the verge of a diplomatic incident as the US retaliates against what it sees as European Union discrimination

because of pressure from big business, notably the Big Banana himself, Carl Lindner of the Cincinnati-based Chiquita banana company.

Mr Lindner has made large donations to Bill Clinton's campaign coffers and wants better access to EU markets. Additionally, US aggression reflects Washington's general disillusionment with the World Trade Organisation.

The dispute is typical of regular EU-US trade rows such as the long-running pasta, soya beans and chicken wars of recent years, which - after much brinkmanship - are normally

resolved at the 11th hour. However, an added dimension is a US threat to ban Concorde from America in retaliation against new European rules requiring aircraft to be quieter. The US claims the rules discriminate against US aircraft.

With neither side budging, the "banana war" engulfs the most unlikely industries blacklisted by the Americans.

Cashmere knitwear is the hardest hit, followed by lead-acid battery production, plastics and biscuits. When other industries such as Italian cheeses, French handbags and German coffee-makers are

added in, the EU-wide target list is worth more than \$500m.

Mr Rathie said: "The danger is that customers will just switch to Chinese cashmere. There is no limit to how much of that the Americans can import. Once a customer is lost, they are gone for ever."

Anger about the Government's failure to pre-empt the crisis also mounted in the tiny Highlands village of Aberlour on Speyside.

Walkers Shortbread, sold in a famous tartan box in duty-free shops and stores on America's classier malls, has been blacklisted. The company, employing

700 people - virtually the entire local adult population - exports half its production.

The United States is "a very important market indeed," said a spokesman, detailing how the 101-year-old company has diversified into chocolate chip shortbread (£1.55 a pack) to satisfy transatlantic tastes. All its biscuits are kosher.

The Prince of Wales may even be dragged into the row. Walkers makes Duchy Originals, a shortbread sold by the Duchy of Cornwall and exported to the US.

If the war continues, it could damage conservation work at

Kew Gardens. Prints of Kew's archives, exported under licence to the United States, are on the hit list.

Profits from the sales, by Cornflower Fine Art Publishers, are ploughed back into projects such as the Millennium Seed Bank, aimed at preserving threatened species. "A 100 per cent duty would stop the market for prints overnight," said a Cornflower spokesman.

Stephen Selby, who publishes and exports Victorian prints of work by Sir John Lavery, John O'Connor and Arthur Elsie, said nearly 50 per cent of

his business goes to the US. He said: "We have noticed that since Christmas buyers who are aware of the problem are not bothering to buy British because they think it is too much trouble."

Ironically, 20 new British print-exporting companies were exhibiting yesterday, with government support, at the Art Expo in New York. At the exhibition, Rosie Sumner of the Fine Art Trade Guild said: "This duty could be ruinous. It is grossly unfair that our industry is being affected when it has nothing at all to do with the banana dispute."

'Flaming Ferrari' trader resigns

By ANDREW BUNCOMBE

ONE OF THE group of city traders known as the "Flaming Ferraris" resigned yesterday, amid allegations of improper dealing. Adrian Ezra, 31, one of the group's leading figures, was suspended from his job last week, with another senior executive, David Crasanti, and James Archer, the son of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. The men all work for Credit Suisse First Boston.

Mr Ezra had worked for the bank since 1987. Yesterday his solicitors said: "Mr Ezra has today resigned from his position as derivatives trader and vice-president of CSFB with immediate effect. He wishes to make it clear that he has at all times endeavoured to act in the best interests of CSFB."

"He will continue to co-operate to the best of his ability with all further inquiries regarding these matters."

The allegations of improper trading focus on Mr Archer's dealings on the Swedish stock exchange. Both the bank and the stock exchange are carrying out investigations and it is understood that a number of deals are being investigated by Swedish bank authorities and Britain's Securities and Futures Authority. The Swedish stock exchange is expected to complete its inquiry next week.



At the heart of the investigations are claims that Mr Archer, 24, aggressively sold shares in wood pulp company Stora, one of Sweden's biggest firms, in a bid to drive down the value of the Stockholm market index - the Swedish equivalent of the FTSE-100.

It is said he planned to make profits then by trading in the futures market - a complex system of gambling on the future value of shares, commodities and even whole stock markets.

Mr Ezra and Mr Crasanti were not involved in the deals, which took place in December, but as Mr Archer's bosses they were suspended pending the bank's investigation into how he was supervised.

Mr Ezra was unavailable for comment yesterday.

IT'S NOT JUST BANANAS AT STAKE: HOW BRITISH INDUSTRIES ARE AFFECTED

CASHMERE	SWEET BISCUITS	BATTERIES
		
SIZE OF MARKET The UK exports around £18m of cashmere to the US each year. The major producers are based in the Scottish borders with some towns dominated by cashmere production.	NUMBER OF JOBS AFFECTED Not clear but Walkers, the UK's biggest shortbread maker employs 700 at Speyside in the Scottish Highlands.	UK exports to the US of lead-acid storage batteries are estimated at £14m a year. Dispute excludes batteries for electric vehicles.
CAN THE INDUSTRY SURVIVE A prolonged dispute would put many smaller companies out of business. Even larger producers like Dawson International, maker of Pringle sweaters, are already laying-off staff.	DTI estimates suggest that over 400 jobs could rely on battery exports to the US. Yes. Companies like BTR, the British manufacturing group, already manufacture most of their batteries in the US. The £14m affected is a small part of the UK market.	

Cheese, biscuits and the failure of diplomacy

By ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

THE LIST of products selected by the United States includes everything but the kitchen sink: sweaters, biscuits, bed linen, candles and pecorino cheese.

The sad story of how pecorino cheese made it to the list tells a lot about the miserable background to the dispute, which represents a failure of diplomacy on both sides of the Atlantic going back a decade. When the US decided to retaliate for what it saw as European obduracy, it wanted a list that covered each European Union country, and which would cost Europe as much as the banana rules cost American companies.

It picked easily identifiable products so that individual companies would be hurt badly, scream at their governments

and pressure them to back off from defending bananas. The argument is simple: who has most political clout in Britain, the banana importers or Pringle sweaters?

Some countries were excluded, since their governments were favourable to the US arguments. The Germans, Danes and Dutch all prefer the bigger and cheaper "dollar" bananas over the Caribbean varieties. The US tactic is one of divide and conquer.

When it came to finding a Greek product, the only thing that came readily to mind was feta cheese, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. So on to the list went sheep's cheese, which dragged in a small group of Italian producers of pecorino, a toothsome hard cheese that goes particularly well with a few slices of pear and some walnuts. Bananas, it has to be



pecorino cheese

said, would not complement pecorino.

So without further ado, the pecorino producers found themselves in the middle of a trade war. Embarrassingly for the US, *The Wall Street Jour-*

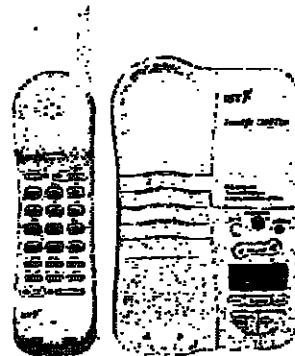
nal discovered that among the main producers for export was a small farm in the Mugello region near Florence, which is also a shelter for abused children.

The US banana industry had ended up by harming 60 disturbed children, whose only crime had been to produce a dairy product. But then in the tough world of international trade, that is just hard cheese.

And so, every EU country had something put against it: sweaters from Britain, handbags from France, Parma ham from Italy and so on.

This is a tried and trusted technique, adopted by the US in many other trade wars: the great frozen chicken war, the pasta conflict, and other historic battle honours sewn on the banners of the United States Trade Representative.

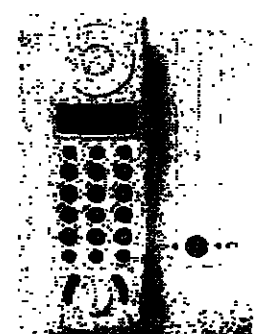
Take advantage of our early Spring offers



BT Freestyle 1100 Plus
cordless phone with answering machine
Was £99.99
Now £69.99 **Save £30**

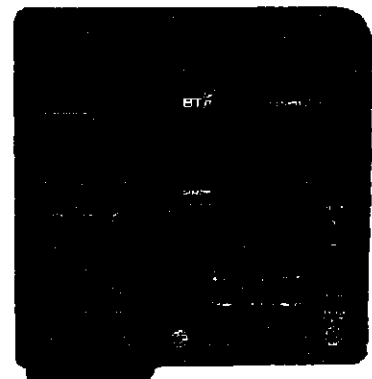
Binatone Eurotel 1500
digital cordless phone with caller display
Instore Price £89.99
Voucher Price £79.99

Save £10



BT Synergy 1000
digital cordless phone
Was £129.99
Now £99.99 **Save £30**

BT Diverse 2015
digital cordless phone with answering machine
Was £199.99
Now £179.99 **Save £20**



BT DECT Fax digital fax machine
Was £399.99
Instore Price £349.99
Voucher Price £299.99 **Save £100**

FREE Two flights to Brussels with this purchase

Voucher Price Savings

Spring prices you can trust

The BT Shop
communication experts

*Your BT shop till receipt is required and the product must be complete and boxed. For your further peace of mind all our products come with a 12 month guarantee. Your statutory rights are not affected. You must bring back your BT shop receipt within 14 days with details of the other retailer's price. The other retailer's price must be for a new product immediately available at full price at the store. This BT shop refund policy applies to all products except telephone lines and associated services. All trademarks recognised. All offers end 7.3.99 except Virgin tights offer. *Rights via redemption leaflet. Ask in-store for details. Airport taxes are not included. Flights from Gatwick or Stansted airport on 30 days notice. Flights to be taken by 31.12.99. Offer ends 31.3.99. †Subject to connection to BT Select Services, a quarterly charge is payable.

E coli cases traced back to dairy farm

A DAIRY farm in Cumbria was traced yesterday as the source of an E coli outbreak that has put three children in hospital and infected 16 others.

The children were receiving treatment for kidney problems at Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne, where their condition was said to be "comfortable" last night. The infection was caused by the bacterium O157, the most serious form of E coli, which was responsible for the outbreak in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in 1996 in which 21 people died.

Health officials in West Cumbria appealed to local people to stay calm as the Government's Chief Medical Officer admitted the outbreak was serious. Professor Liam Donaldson said prompt local action had contained the problem but investigations were continuing and he promised to "monitor the situation closely". The farm had supplied milk to 300 people.

The cases first came to light on Monday after a local GP told Cumbria health authority of a cluster of patients with persistent diarrhoea. On Tuesday it was confirmed that the organism causing the symptoms was E coli. Environmental health of-

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

Officials at Allerdale Borough Council then began investigating the source of the infection. They discovered all the families infected had received milk from Scales Farm in Brigham, Cockermouth, and traced the infection to a pasteurising unit.

Stella Goh, public health consultant, said: "We have to consider this as a serious outbreak but you have to bear in mind that we have taken action very, very quickly. In that respect, we have contained it very, very well."

Asked about the three children affected, she said: "It's difficult to say whether their lives are in danger. They are in a serious condition, but they are stable." She urged people in the area to stay calm and to seek medical advice if they suffered from persistent symptoms.

John Cain, an environmental health officer, said the problem appeared to be limited to one delivery of milk from the farm, which has been serving the area for several years. He said: "We seized milk from the bulk tank and the

farmer volunteered not to bottle any more milk at the premises. There appears to have been a hiccup with one batch that went out."

Milk from the farm is now being pasteurised and bottled elsewhere. Mr Cain added: "I cannot stress enough that people who may still have milk in the fridge which they bought before Wednesday to throw it away."

The bacterium causing alarm in Cumbria is a dangerous strain of Escherichia coli, a normal inhabitant of the gut. In 1982 it became clear that an E coli strain, O157:H7, had acquired a gene that enabled it to produce a powerful poison, verotoxin. This E coli has caused problems in America, Europe, South Africa and Japan.

In Britain the number of cases has been increasing from 361 in 1991 to more than 1,000 in 1997. Last year the total declined slightly to about 900. The bacterium causes bleeding and diarrhoea, and is especially dangerous in children.

Its most serious consequence is haemolytic uraemic syndrome, a form of kidney failure.



William Thompson at Scales Farm, Brigham, believed to be the source of the outbreak. *Carlisle Evening News*

New bid to tackle corrupt lawyers

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE LAW Society has asked Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, for greater powers to raid the offices of solicitors suspected of cheating their clients.

Details of the request emerged yesterday as the Home Office minister Mike O'Brien made a blistering attack on the legal profession for failing to root out "seamy", "corrupt", and "incompetent" immigration lawyers.

Mr O'Brien, himself a lawyer, demanded greater efforts from the Law Society and Bar Council in taking action to ensure that such lawyers were unable to continue working.

But Michael Mathews, chairman of the Law Society, said the profession did not have the powers to raid the offices of solicitors unless there was specific evidence of malpractice.

The Home Office has given the Law Society the names of 50 legal firms who are suspected of abusing the legal aid system and cheating clients by giving questionable immigration advice. So far, the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, the regulatory arm of the Law Society, has investigated only two. Mr Mathews said: "With just a list of names there is nothing we can do. Our powers don't enable us to investigate on just general intelligence."

Mr O'Brien's comments came during a robust defence of the Government's Immigration and Asylum Bill at the annual conference of the Immigration Advisory Service in London. He said: "There's a seamy side to [the legal] profession and I want that seamy side cleaned up. We don't want to have these advisers and lawyers providing this incompetent and sometimes corrupt advice continuing to practise. We expect the Law Society and the Bar to ensure that that is cleaned up."

The Bill, which has just completed its second reading in Parliament, has already set out plans for tight new controls to regulate immigration advisers, many of whom are not legally qualified.

Official who sold arms was obeying orders

SENIOR CIVIL servants who drew up a secret plan to dispose of hundreds of thousands of ex-Ministry of Defence weapons are not to be disciplined for keeping the scheme from ministers.

The officials, who in effect changed government policy without referring to Parliament, will remain in their posts after the acquittal yesterday of a junior official who was charged with conspiracy to defraud the MoD because he

By STEVE BOGGAN

followed their instructions. Robert Fenley, 49, was arrested in 1994, suspended from his post, and had to wait years before being charged. Yesterday, however, a jury at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court unanimously acquitted him after hearing that he was simply doing his job.

The case revolved around a real change in government policy when, in 1988, ministers

agreed that old MoD weaponry could be sold to foreign governments in the same way – and under the same strict controls – as modern arms. Previously, they had been destroyed or dumped out at sea.

With the ending of the Cold War, large stocks of unwanted small arms and ammunition had built up at the armed forces depot at Donnington, Shropshire. However, attempts to sell them to foreign governments failed because much

was old or obsolete, so civil servants unilaterally set about selling them to independent arms dealers.

Mr Fenley's job was to find buyers for 40,000 Second World War vintage Lee Enfield rifles, 56,000 self-loading rifles, and 10,000 Browning and Walther PPK pistols. He made contact with Robert Trem, a former RAF officer who exported diesel electric generator sets and old marine engines from his business in Doncaster, and

persuaded him to buy some of the surplus.

Business burgeoned, with Mr Trem selling via a third-party to the north American gun-club fraternity, but the arrangement came unstuck when another dealer wrote to his MP Sir Archie Hamilton, a former Tory minister for the armed forces, complaining that he had been unable to buy surplus weapons.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Fenley and Mr Trem had

sewn up the business themselves, but suggestions that Mr Fenley benefited from the operation fell flat. The court was told that Mr Trem's hospitality towards the civil servant extended to four nights in a bed-and-breakfast hotel in 1993, costing £250.

"It is hardly champagne and caviar... hula girls on the beaches in Hawaii," said Geoffrey Cox, representing Mr Fenley. He added that there had been a "nod and a wink" attitude

that "the policy is changing, but we are not going to tell anyone".

An MoD spokesman said the evidence in the case would be reviewed to see if there were lessons to be learnt. Other sources said it was "most unlikely" that any disciplinary action would be taken against officials who gave evidence in the court case.

Mr Fenley said: "I am elated. I can't believe it is all over because it has been such a big part of my life for so long."

EUROPEAN PEP

Transfer your PEP to a top performer.

The PEP that beat 97% of the competition.

17.2%
average returns since launch

If you have a PEP, and you're not getting the kind of returns you'd like, why not take a look at our European PEP?

- Outperformed 97% of all 535 unit trust PEPs over the last 5 years.

- Invests in a trust that has been 'AAA' rated in 6 out of the last 7 years.
- Would have produced an average return of 17.2% had the Trust been available as a PEP since launch.
- The Trust outperformed the average European trust since launch by 72%.

Transferring your PEP is quick and easy. So why not move to a top performing PEP today?

For further details, return the coupon or call

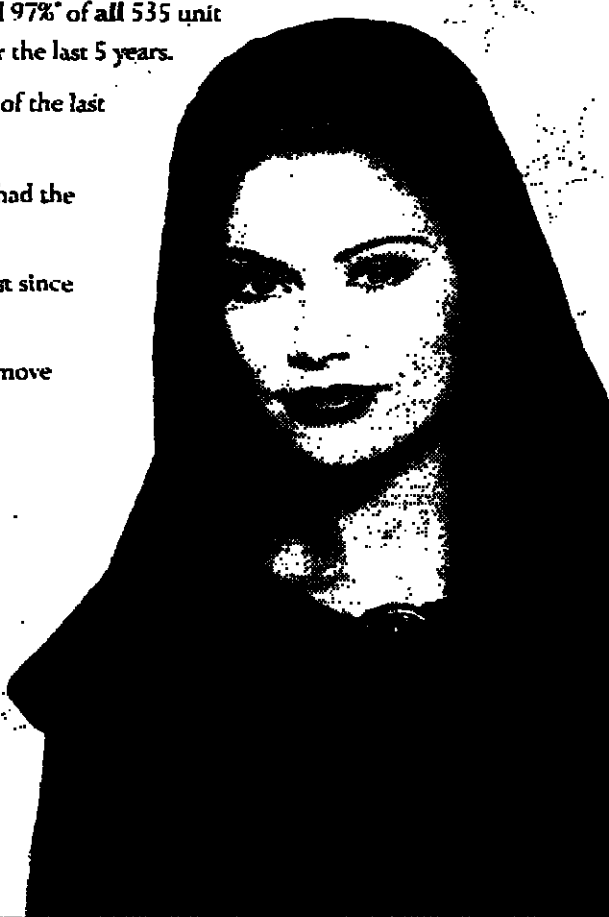
0345 6789 10

Quote reference no. 476DC3

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

www.scottishwidows.co.uk

2% discount on new lump sums and transfers before 5 April 1999.



Please return to: Scottish Widows, Direct Sales, PO Box 170346, FREEPOST SCO3744, Edinburgh EH3 0BR. EUROPEAN PEP

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms) _____ First Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone No. Work _____ Home _____ Date of Birth _____

We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you more about our products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box. ☐ Reference No. 476DC3

Source: Standard & Poor's Microcap 1,000-1,100, lump sum sterling, offer to bid prices, gross income re-invested. 535 funds in survey. *Source: Standard & Poor's Fund Research 2002/2003. Based on £1000 lump sum, 14.25% to 11.00%, offer to bid prices, gross income re-invested, assuming our European Trust had been available as a PEP. Over the five years to 1 October 1998, the same investment would have provided an average annual growth rate of 17.2%. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. The value of the tax advantages of a PEP depends on personal circumstances. Where applicable we will recover any overseas tax wherever it is possible and practical to do so. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to go down as well as up. The tax position of PEPs will change in April 1999. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored. Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Financial Investment Authority and IMRO.

13 OSCAR NOMINATIONS

INCLUDING

BEST PICTURE

BEST DIRECTOR - JOHN MADDEN • BEST ACTRESS - GWYNETH PALTROW
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - JUDI DENCH • BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - GEOFFREY RUSH
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY - MARC NORMAN/TOM STOPPARD • BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
BEST EDITING • BEST ART DIRECTION • BEST COSTUME DESIGN • BEST MAKEUP • BEST SOUND • BEST COMEDY SCORE

15 BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARD® NOMINATIONS

INCLUDING

BEST FILM

BEST DIRECTOR - JOHN MADDEN • BEST ACTRESS - GWYNETH PALTROW • BEST ACTOR - JOSEPH FIENNES
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - JUDI DENCH • BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - GEOFFREY RUSH/TOM WILKINSON
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY - MARC NORMAN/TOM STOPPARD • BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY • BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN
BEST COSTUME DESIGN • BEST EDITING • BEST SOUND • BEST MAKEUP/HAIR • ACHIEVEMENT IN FILM MUSIC



GWYNETH PALTROW JOSEPH FIENNES GEOFFREY RUSH COLIN FIRTH BEN AFFLECK AND JUDI DENCH

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

Now Showing At Cinemas Across The Country

Joe 21/10/150

How 'an old man' lured Lewinsky

Aitken suffers minor stroke

By Kim Sengupta

THE FORMER cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken has suffered a stroke as he awaits sentencing for perjury and perverting the course of justice, it emerged yesterday.

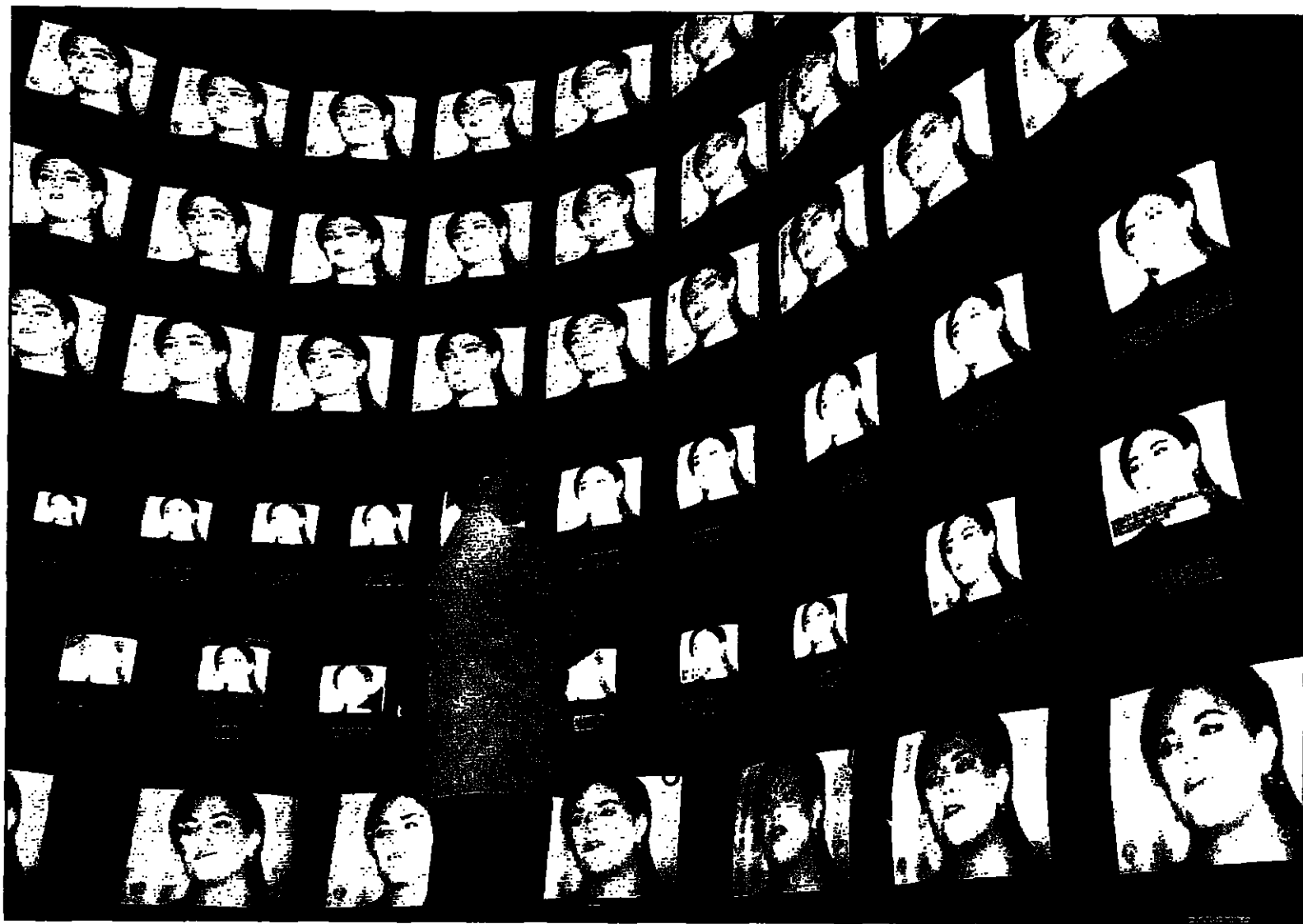
News of the former chief secretary to the Treasury's illness came as the man accused of being his criminal accomplice had charges against him dropped at the Old Bailey.

Said Aitken had been jointly charged with Aitken with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice during Aitken's failed libel action last year against Granada Television and The Guardian. Mr Aitken had given a 61-page sworn statement to the High Court about the former minister's stay at the Paris Ritz hotel, which proved to be false.

But yesterday David Walters, for the Crown Prosecution Service, told the judge it would be wrong to continue proceedings against Mr Aitken. He was formally found not guilty and his legal costs, estimated to be about £70,000, will be paid out of public funds.

Aitken, who will be sentenced on 8 June, suffered a "minor stroke" after influenza that developed into bronchial pneumonia, said his solicitors. This had resulted in the bursting of veins and blood vessels behind one of his eyes, leaving him "with severe loss of vision". Michael Coleman, of the law firm Harknays, said in a statement: "Mr Aitken is still convalescing but it is anticipated and hoped by those close to him that he will make a full recovery."

Aitken's mother, Lady Aitken, said: "It is apparently the kind of thing people under a lot of stress suffer from... This is not an attempt by him to get out of a prison sentence or anything."



A shopper at an electronics store in Toronto watching Monica Lewinsky's interview with Barbara Walters on ABC

The model of a wiser woman

A CRITIC'S VIEW

THE TITLE was significant: "Monica - The Interview". She is now up there with Marilyn and Diana as a woman too famous to need a surname.

The effect of Jon Snow's hour-long interview was to give her back her surname to make the viewer understand that at the centre of the whole sorry affair has been not an icon, a neurotic stalker, or a dumped-on victim, but an ordinary, intelligent and pleasant woman.

The obvious comparison is with Diana's interview with Martin Bashir, and it has to be said, Monica came off rather better. Clearly, she has thought hard about her image in recent weeks, and here was the model

of a sadder and wiser woman as she sat with her hands folded, hair scraped back and make-up discreet. There was little deliberate theatre about her. She gave direct, full answers to most questions, with no shy glances. Most of her resentment was reserved for the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr and for her supposed friend Linda Tripp, of whom she said: "She gutted me. She violated me. She um, she knifed me."

The word "violation" came up later, when she discussed the process of giving testimony about intimate sexual acts, and the extent to which her private life had been pulled apart. By contrast with Ms Tripp, the President - she seemed to find it hard to refer to him by name - got off pretty lightly. Monica was bitter about the manner of his denial that they had had an affair and, showing

a nice sense of understatement, she said she could think of people she would rather spend the evening with. But if there was one message she wanted to get across, it was that this was a genuine affair based on attraction between two adults who knew what they were doing even if they had not worked out the consequences. The message was not completely convincing, but the interview did convince this viewer that while Monica's actions may have been flawed - both in the affair and in all that followed - they were comprehensible and human. It was also a triumph for Mr Snow's courteous, sympathetic approach. Give the man a cigar. On second thoughts, maybe not.

ROBERT HANKS

MONICA LEWINSKY finally admitted last night what the rest of the world already knew: that Bill Clinton never loved her.

In an interview shown on Channel 4, Ms Lewinsky gave an animated account of her side of the affair with the President and admitted: "I do think that there is a right-wing conspiracy [against Mr Clinton] and I think I've definitely been used as a pawn."

Ms Lewinsky said before she met the President, he was just "an old man with wavy grey hair and a red nose - I did not find him remotely attractive". But in the flesh there was "a humongous contrast".

Ms Lewinsky revealed that for a long time she believed Mr Clinton was only interested in her because a regular girlfriend from the civil service had left the White House. She got close to the President because interns replaced civil servants during the shutdown of government caused by a senate budget crisis.

In a sympathetic interview by Jon Snow, Channel 4's main news presenter, Ms Lewinsky covered the scandal that led to the President's impeachment, including the notorious detail of the blue dress: "This dress was nothing and was really pretty irrelevant. It had no bearing on our relationship. If they returned it to me I'd burn it."

"The next time I went to put the dress on after I had been with the President it didn't fit. I had gained weight and yes, I noticed it had been soiled. It was funny and it didn't fit so back it went in the closet. I tended to get things dry-cleaned when I was gonna wear them again."

Because of a gagging agree-

ment with the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr, Ms Lewinsky was unable to discuss the details of her interrogation by nine FBI men, which she says made her contemplate suicide.

In the background during her interview with Mr Snow, lawyers could be heard arguing with Channel 4 producers, as his questions touched on the day of her arrest for alleged perjury during the Paula Jones investigation.

"I was terrified. Never been so afraid in my entire life. I lost my breath - the whole world flashed before my eyes, the room was spinning - it was terribly, terribly frightening."

It was after that moment that Ms Lewinsky confessed she thought about suicide to protect her family and the President from hurt.

The Channel 4 interview referred obliquely to a period of crisis in Ms Lewinsky's private life, but Mr Snow deliberately decided not to ask her about her abortion of another man's child while she was still in contact with the President. He said before the broadcast that he felt the abortion was off limits because the interview's point of interest was her relationship with Mr Clinton.

Mr Snow's interview was more serious than the one by Barbara Walters, for ABC in America. But it lacked the killer question that Ms Walters used to start her interview. Asking about the way Ms Lewinsky began the relationship by showing him her underwear, Ms Walters exclaimed: "How could you do that to a president?"

MONICA: THE TOUR

LAST NIGHT'S interview on Channel 4 was the curtain-raiser to two weeks of Monica mania, which will begin with her arrival in Britain this weekend.

A promotion tour for Andrew Morton's book *Monica's Story* begins on Monday at Harrods in London and takes in bookshops in places as diverse as the huge Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, Essex, and Otakar's in Salisbury. Other stops are lined up in Leeds, Edinburgh, Manchester, Glasgow and Newcastle. Ms Lewinsky will travel with five people from her publisher, Michael O'Mara, including security personnel. To keep the press at bay, her accommodation plans are not being disclosed. She will spend another month travelling around continental Europe promoting the book.

PAUL MCCANN

THE INDEPENDENT GREAT COMEDY OFFERS

* Today is the last of our specially discounted selection from BBC Radio Collection's outstanding comedy range

* You can guarantee a great car or train journey if you're listening to one of BBC Radio Collection's comedy audio cassettes. Just a ten-minute sketch from the inimitable Harry Enfield and Chums, the multicultural satire Goodness Gracious Me or Only Fools and Horses will leave you with a smile on your face. So don't be a plonker, have a listen!

* Harry Enfield and Chums - Enfield tickles the nation's funny bone with a wide variety of traditional favourites like Kevin the Teenager, Tim Nice-but-Dim and the Gits, Harry the Toddler and Randy Old Ladies

* Goodness Gracious Me - This Anglo-Asian sketch show comes as a breath of fresh air in the TV comedy world. The cassettes offer a steady stream of observations and songs, gently ribbing or poking in the eye, every angle of multicultural society

* Only Fools and Horses - No income tax, no VAT and certainly no guarantee of anything but laughs in a selection of comic capers starring David Jason, Nicholas Lyndhurst and Buster Merryfield

* All available on CD and cassette

* To order any one of the titles shown call the credit card hotline on 0181 576 2236 and have your credit card details ready

* Alternatively, please fill in your details on the coupon below

Detach completed form and send it together with a cheque or postal order made payable to Video Plus Direct (or include your credit card details) to BBC Radio Collection, PO Box 190, Peterborough PE2 6UW.

Title	Code	Format	RRP	Independent	Quantity	£ Total
Harry Enfield and Chums	ISBN 0563 38154X	2Cassettes	£9.99	£6.99		
Harry Enfield and Chums	ISBN 0563 382285	2CDs	£11.99	£8.99		
Harry Enfield's Television Programme	ISBN 0563 393173	2Cassettes	£8.99	£5.99		
Harry Enfield's Television Programme	ISBN 0563 393734	2CDs	£11.99	£9.99		
Goodness Gracious Me	ISBN 0563 557168	2Cassettes	£8.99	£6.99		
Only Fools and Horses	ISBN 0563 557044	2Cassettes	£8.99	£6.99		
						Grand Total

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Video Plus Direct

Or please charge my credit card £

☐ ACCESS ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

CARD NO

EXPIRY DATE

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE

☐ Tick if you do not wish to receive direct mail from other carefully screened companies whose products or services we feel may be of interest. Offer subject to availability. Order ref number ADBB1645

My details

Title Name

Address

Postcode

Daytime tel. (incl. STD Code)

SIEMENS

BUYING A HOME COMPUTER IS THE EASY BIT WITH TESCO



TESCO

XPERT PC Siemens believes that when you buy a home PC you deserve the same professional service as our business customers. That's why all our Xpert PCs are manufactured to the highest quality standards with 1 year at-home service and technical support hotline. Want to get on the internet? Want the latest Microsoft Home Essentials software? It's all here at a price you just won't believe. For a great deal visit one of the Tesco stores below.

Siemens Computer Systems
Information meets Communication



Xpert 7620C Specifications: Intel® Celeron™ processor, 300MHz, 128KB cache, 32MB SDRAM, 3.2GB hard disk, 32X CD-ROM, 56.6Kbps modem, 4MB AGP graphics, 3D sound, 15" monitor. Microsoft Windows 98 & Home Essentials. **SPECIAL OFFER: £499.99 inc VAT.**

The Xpert 7620C SPECIAL OFFER is available from the following Tesco stores: Milton Keynes, Dunstable, Fulbourn, Pines Extra, Inverness, Yeading, Kensington, Chester, Colchester, Hortham, Feltham Dukes Green, Hammersmith, Ashford, Quaxley, Hemel Hempstead, Chesham, Sandhurst, Twickenham, Rochdale, Bury, Farnworth, Goodmayes, Sharnham, New Malden East, Biddenden, Romford, Gillingham, Southport, Abingdon, Northampton, Hursley, Rugby, Hasfield, Guildford, Worcester, Hayes Bullbridge, Eastbourne, Chelmsford, Gillingham, Ryde, Darford, Eastleigh, Amersham, Brooklands, Gloucester and Cardiff Extra. (Check availability with the store before making a special journey.)



Eco-warrior Margaret Jones at her protest home near Bristol. Yesterday she was jubilant at the Lord's ruling on peaceful assembly *John Voas*

Eco-warrior wins 'right to assembly'

A WOMAN who gave up academia to become a full-time civil rights activist known as "Swampy's sister" yesterday won a historic House of Lords ruling on the right to peaceful assembly.

Margaret Jones, 50, who lives in a bender (a shack) in a barricaded warehouse near Bristol, where she is protesting against the Avon relief road, won her legal victory after being arrested outside Stonehenge, in Wiltshire, four years ago.

Dr Jones, a former lecturer in American literature at the University of the West of England, and fellow civil rights activist Richard Lloyd were arrested and convicted for "trespassory assembly" after gathering at the stones to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Battle of the Beanfield, when police clashed with travellers on their way to Stonehenge.

After the House of Lords upheld the pair's appeal yesterday, Dr Jones was celebrating in a public house. "We started out to

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

protest the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act," she said. "We have ended up with the first assertion in British law of a positive right to peaceful assembly. It's far, far better than we could have hoped for."

At Stonehenge, Dr Jones and Mr Lloyd were arrested after they gathered with other protesters and draped banners over the perimeter fence with slogans such as "Never Again" and "Free Stonehenge". In anticipation of an anniversary protest, the Chief Constable of Wiltshire had obtained an order prohibiting trespassory assemblies, defined under the Public Order Act 1986 as a gathering of 20 or more people within a defined area.

Dr Jones and Mr Lloyd were convicted at Salisbury magistrates' court but began a four-year battle to overturn the decision. They appealed successfully in Salisbury Crown

Court, but that ruling was reversed in January 1997 by the High Court. However, last October they were given leave to take their case to the House of Lords.

As part of yesterday's ruling, Lord Hutton said: "The common law recognises that there is a right for members of the public to assemble together to express views on matters of public concern and I consider that the common law should now recognise this right, which is one of the fundamental rights of citizens in this country: is unduly restricted unless it can be exercised in some circumstances on the public highway."

"From being only allowed to assemble at the whim of the police, we now have a positive right of freedom of expression which includes being able to come together peacefully," Dr Jones said.

Mr Lloyd, 28, said: "I just wish we hadn't had to go through a four-year legal battle to stand peacefully by a road."

Census to include check on sexuality

QUESTIONS about income, religion, illness, and even the sexuality of your partner are to be included for the first time in the 2001 Census. Under government plans published yesterday, the national survey will be the most detailed of its kind since its inception in 1801.

Traditional British reserve about matters financial and sexual will be tested by a list of questions aimed at giving civil servants and others a comprehensive picture of the nation's citizens. For the first time, homosexual couples who live together will be able to identify themselves as partners.

In what the Government says is an attempt to identify the poorest in society, the Census White Paper suggests that unprecedented questions on income are also likely to be introduced. A census rehearsal to be staged next month asks respondents to place themselves in one of six annual income bands, ranging from under £3,500 to more than £25,000.

If the public responds well to the pilot scheme, the question will be part of the full survey in two years' time, pending approval from ministers.

A new section on religion will rack up the 1991 Census's question on ethnic background, ringing England and Wales to line with Northern Ireland. The 32 million forms due to go out in 2001 will offer a choice of "Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Islam/Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, none or other".

To allow a more detailed picture of ethnic make-up, categories will be greatly expanded to include "Irish", "Mixed", "Asian British" and "Black

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

British". Asian people will be able to specify if they are Indian, Bangladeshi or Pakistani.

The maximum penalty for failure to complete a census form is £1,000 and all householders are legally required to fill it in honestly.

A spokesman for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) stressed that although names and addresses were required, they would be locked up for 100 years in accordance with census rules. "The Census is extremely confidential and privacy is paramount. The names will not be revealed, we want to make that very clear."

Martin Walker, of gay rights group Stonewall, welcomed the inclusion of same-sex information as a step forward for society. "We have been fighting for years for homosexual relationships to be recognised because we are fed up when forms just offer the choice of marriage or heterosexual couples," he said.

Other new questions include one on general health and long-term illness, qualifications, hours a week spent working and means of travel to work. Respondents will also be asked to say whether they provide unpaid help for a friend or relative with a long-term health problem.

"We are not about placing undue burdens on the public, but there is a definite need for more detailed information for central and local government, the health service, businesses and the professions," the ONS spokesman said.

**Leading article,
Review, page 3**

Sharps 2 for 1 offer

OS
1

Sharps are the UK's No.1 Fitted Bedroom and Home Office specialists and offer free design and free craftsmanship fitting as part of the service.

And right now for every pound you spend we'll give you another pound's worth of bedroom or home office furniture FREE*, plus if you order this week you will get an extra £200 off† the whole order.

So call us today or visit your nearest showroom and see the inspirational choice on offer at Sharps.

[illegible]

Crash man thinks wife is impostor

FOR MORE than 30 years Alan Davies and his wife Christine enjoyed a happy marriage. Now, after a car crash, Mr Davies believes his wife is an imposter and that his real spouse died in the accident. Suffering from the extremely rare Capgras' Syndrome, he now refers to his "current" wife as Christine Two.

Yesterday Mr Davies, 52, a former teacher, received £130,000 in compensation after the High Court in Cardiff was told how the crash in September 1995 devastated his marriage. The couple still live in the same house but are considering divorce.

Mr and Mrs Davies, from Rhondda, south Wales, were involved in the crash with Thomas Williams who cut across them. Neil Blödder QC, told the court that Mr Davies suffered flash-

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

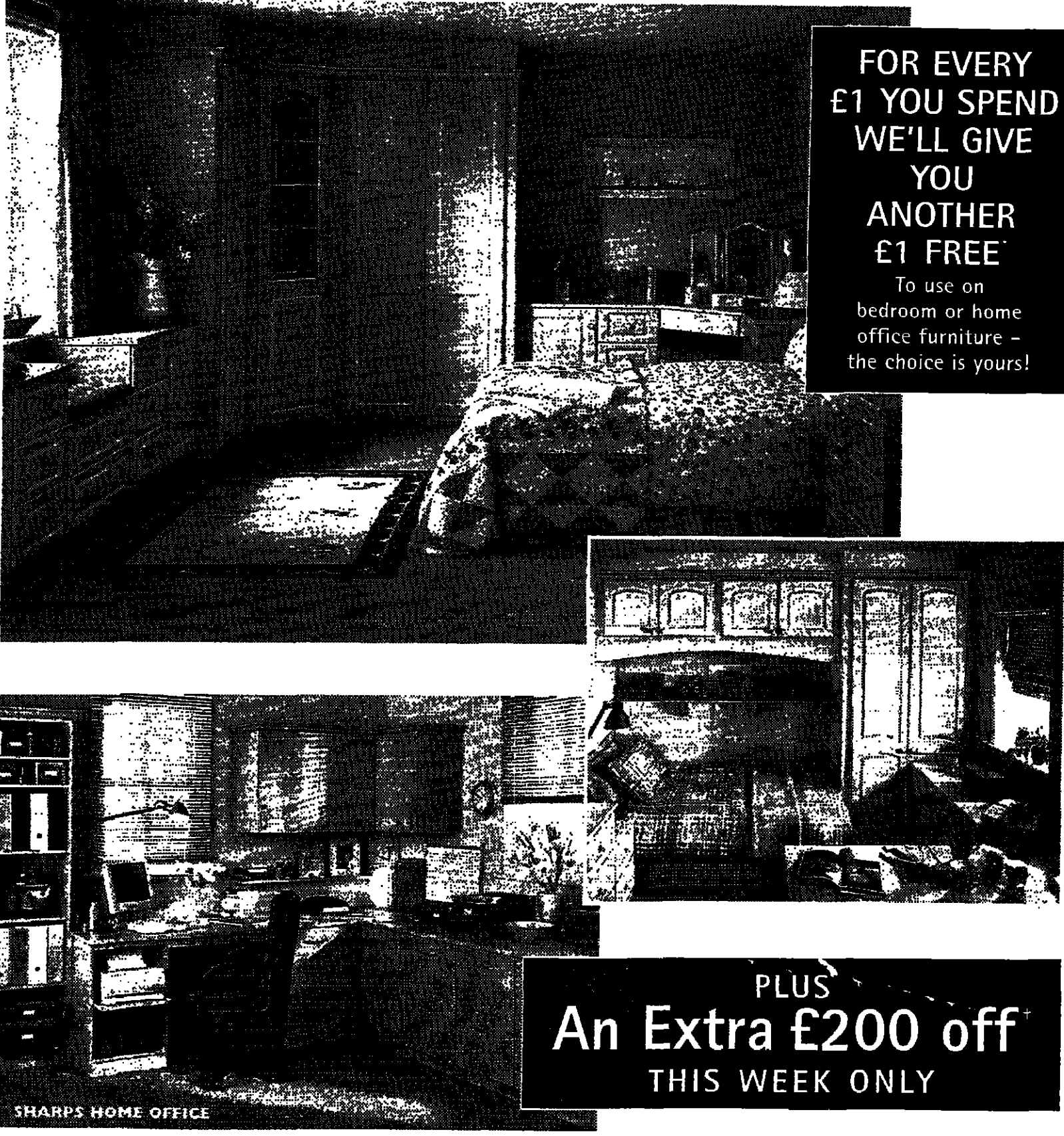
backs of his wife lying dead in the crash.


Mr Davies, who was forced to give up his job, said: "I have good days and bad days but I still believe my wife has died." He added: "There are marriage strains - before the accident, when we argued we never slept on it. We have even discussed divorce but she doesn't want to."

Mr Davies sued Mr Williams, 53, for loss of earnings and damages. Mr Williams, of Aber-tillery, admitted liability for the crash but denied causing Mr Davies any psychological problems. An agreement was reached yesterday whereby Mr Davies will receive £130,000 plus costs.

There are said to be only six cases of the syndrome diagnosed worldwide each year.

Blakelock murder inquiry to resume

[illegible]

visit your local showroom or call free **0800 789 789**  **SHARPS**
Bedrooms

Hewitt drifts off into foggy world of election slogans

WITH ALL this talk of purdah in recent days I had imagined that the Chancellor might absent himself from Treasury questions. Surely he should be reclining in some Civil Service zenana, murmuring sweet nothings at his economic advisers from behind a fetching tartan yashmak. Would the fiscal Nubians who guard him really let him loose at the moment when his virtue was most vulnerable to improper advances?

There he was, though, barefaced in the market place, and subject to the impertinent remarks of every passing Tom, Dick or Angus. Then he stood up to speak and I realised that my anxiety had been hopelessly

naïve. There was no chance Mr Brown would be seduced into indiscretion by Opposition MPs. After all, he hasn't answered a Conservative question for the past six months. Why should he begin now?

Paul Truswell, Labour member for Pudsey, later asked Barbara Roche whether the Inland Revenue might be encouraged to use plain English in the explanatory leaflets it sends out to taxpayers it has over-charged. This is a laudable aim but one wonders whether Parliament is quite the body to drive it through, having a distinctly ambiguous relationship to our native tongue itself. "We'll take no lessons from

politicians on the matter of plain-speaking," the Revenue might legitimately reply.

Sometimes utterance is simply detached from any meaningful content, as when Patricia Hewitt drifted off into one of those fog-machine denunciations of the Conservative Party record, garlanded with dog-eared election slogans ("the people of this country blah blah... safe in Labour hands... blah blah"). "Hogwash!" barked Nicholas Winterston furiously after one particularly egregious example, but that was a libel on hogwash, which at least has some nutritional content. Ms Hewitt's remarks bore a much

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

closer relation to what emerges after the hogwash has been through a pig. Things aren't much better on the

other side. Yesterday the trophy for linguistic opacity went to David Amess, one of those people whose personal volume control seems to have been knocked out of whack by a blow to the head.

He boomed out a convoluted question that ended with a request to know how the Chancellor proposed to keep his economic promises "without supposedly not raising taxes". I have meditated on this phrase for some time without being able to penetrate its transcendental enigmas. It is a grammatical Möbius strip and I offer it to readers as a kind of Zen koan - like the sound of one-hand clapping.

Tam Dalyell finally succeeded in dragging George Robertson to the dispatch box to answer a Private Notice Question about the current terms of engagement in Iraq, a fitting reward for his determination over this matter. I doubt if he will have been greatly enlightened by the response, since Mr Robertson's terms of engagement are simple. When a hostile question-mark is detected anywhere over the no-fly zones he dives for the clouds, either citing the continued intransigence of Saddam Hussein (quite a good argument) or flag-waving for our boys in the air (a rather less reputable one). He noted, with the

sorrowful regret that is customary on such occasions, that Mr Dalyell had made no reference to the safety of British airmen in his question. This wasn't actually true since Mr Dalyell had specifically asked about the fate of any pilot unlucky enough to be downed, given that no formal state of war existed.

It seems fanciful to imagine that President Saddam would be very fastidious about the legalistic niceties relating to prisoners of war, but if Mr Dalyell is sometimes awry in substance, he continues to be right in principle. Questions should be asked and better answers might yet be given.

MPs question plan to tax child benefit

DOUBTS OVER Gordon Brown's plans to tax child benefit for the well-off were raised by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday. The Labour-dominated Social Security Select Committee predicted that unmarried couples living together would manage to avoid paying tax on their child benefit. The MPs also urged the Chancellor to ensure that his proposal did not breach the principle of independent taxation for men and women. They said he should also avoid propelling people currently paying the basic rate of tax into the 40 per cent top-rate bracket by including child benefit payments in their total income.

Mr Brown wants to tax the child benefit paid to the 855,000 families in which one partner pays the higher rate of income tax, which would raise £450m a year - enough to raise the benefit by 70 pence per child each week.

But Treasury officials have warned him that there are practical problems in producing a workable scheme, which may force Mr Brown to delay imposing the tax for one or two

SOCIAL SECURITY

By ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

years. He will reveal his intentions in his Budget next Tuesday, when he is expected to announce a generous rise in child benefit, already due to rise from £11.45 to £14.40 a week for the first child in April.

In a report rushed out before the Budget, the Social Security Committee stopped short of demanding that Mr Brown abandon his plan after Labour MPs watered down the draft report written by Archie Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrat MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, who chairs the committee.

Mr Kirkwood said the proposal would be illogical, unfair, complex and would not raise enough cash to raise child benefit substantially across the board. His draft report said the move could threaten independent taxation, under which the tax paid by one person is not affected by the income of any other person in their family.

But Labour MPs endorsed some of Mr Kirkwood's criticisms, with the committee expressing concern that people would not declare they received child benefit on their tax return.

"There is a risk that unmarried couples will find it easy to evade the tax if they choose not to declare their living arrangements to the Inland Revenue," said the report. The Inland Revenue was unlikely to devote a significant amount of money to collecting relatively small sums from a very small group of people.

In a coded criticism of Mr Brown, they concluded: "It will be for the House itself to decide whether the disadvantages and complexities of taxing child benefit would be outweighed by the advantages to all families if there were significant future increases in the level of child benefit."

Iain Duncan Smith, the Tory spokesman on Social Security, said the report showed that Mr Brown's plan was "increasingly untenable". He warned that the proposal would be "anti-marriage" as it would penalise families in which one parent stayed at home to look after children and relatives.



The Conservative leader, William Hague, joining actress and singer Patti Boulaye as she announced her candidacy for the Greater London Assembly at Conservative Central Office in London yesterday. Nicola Kurtz

Combat rules eased for UK pilots

DEFENCE

By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

BRITISH AND US pilots patrolling the Iraq "no-fly" zones have had their rules of engagement changed to cope with an increasing level of attack and "daily attempts to kill them", George Robertson said.

But the Secretary of State for Defence was warned in the Commons that there was not a "blank cheque" in ordering such action. He told MPs there had been more than 100 violations of the no-fly zones since the end of Operation Desert Fox before Christmas.

He said adaptation to the rules of engagement was strictly in accordance with international law - it did not represent a change to the policy towards maintaining the no-fly zones or the purpose of the long-standing patrols.

"The tailoring of the rules of engagement merely reinforces our position, which we have made clear all along, that we will take robust and appropriate defensive measures to prevent Saddam from endangering the lives of our brave aircrew."

But Menzies Campbell, for the Liberal Democrats, said that although he supported use of force as a last resort, he did not feel able to offer Mr Robertson a "blank cheque".

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH OFFER



Empire State Building, New York



Marseille Harbour



Venice

You can order prints of these photographs by award-winning Independent and Independent on Sunday photographer Brian Harris, at the special rate of £15 each 12" x 9" print, 2 for £25, or 3 for £35.

Independent Photograph Offer Application Form

Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone number _____

Please send me: New York ☐ Venice ☐

I enclose my cheque, made payable to The Independent, OR please debit my Credit card account for: £ _____ (pdp inc.)

Credit card number: _____

Expiry date: _____

Signature: _____

Please complete in block capitals and send to: Independent Photographs, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL

Tories boycott opening of euro advisory group

GORDON BROWN dismissed the Tories as a "marginalised sect" yesterday after they boycotted the first meeting of a cross-party advisory group on preparations to join the euro.

The Chancellor condemned their decision to leave an "empty chair" at the meeting in protest at the Government's changeover plan. He also launched a fierce attack on "decaying choice to the British people" by refusing to prepare to join the single currency at a later date.

"The Conservative Party has so marginalised itself that it won't even participate in the discussions about preparations..."

MONETARY UNION

By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

their motto is to be unprepared," he said during question time.

The advisory group, chaired by Barry Sheerman, the Labour Co-operative MP for Huddersfield, met for the first time yesterday morning to consider the practical preparations that would be necessary if Britain was to sign up to the euro.

Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, claimed that the national changeover plan, laying the groundwork for possible entry, was about "edging

Britain ever closer to membership in an attempt to close off the option of Britain prospering outside".

As part of the Government's plans to prepare the country for possible entry, Mr Brown announced that banks, retailers and small businesses would be among those involved in working parties "doing a business examination of critical issues" involved in monetary union.

Vincent Cable, Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham, asked what "rational reason" the Tories had to boycott a body on which all other parties were represented.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

£42,000 for Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN will receive £42,000 for duties in the Northern Ireland Assembly, while Families Acting for Innocent Relatives will get £4,000, said Northern Ireland Minister Paul Murphy.

£3.9m in fake legal aid claims

LEGAL AID board investigations uncovered fraudulent and wrongful claims totalling £3.9m since 1994, Geoff Hoon, Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department, said.

Bid to allay Youth Bill fear

THE GOVERNMENT plans a "new safeguard" to ease media concern about exclusion from court proceedings as part of its Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill, said Lord Williams of Mostyn.

Robinson faces shares rebuke

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the former paymaster-general, faced an official complaint from the Tories last night after *The Independent* revealed he had an undeclared shareholding in a property investment firm.

Elizabeth Filkin, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, has been asked to investigate whether Mr Robinson broke the rules. If she upholds the complaint, the former minister will be dealt with severely by the MPs' watchdog committee, which warned on Wednesday that it would treat another breach very seriously.

Mr Robinson has been criticised three times by the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges for failing to list directorships in the Register of Members' Interests.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Tory Treasury spokesman, said Mr Robinson should be given no more latitude. "It now appears that he has committed a further grave breach of the rules. I hope the committee will look at this very seriously," he said.

Company records show that, between April and November 1997, Mr Robinson held jointly with his stepmother, Pauline

STANDARDS

By FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

Robinson, one third of the shares in the JCT Property Company. They were transferred to them from the JCT Trust and the share register entry is marked "PW Robinson settlement".

A current minister was also facing criticism yesterday after *The Independent* revealed that he had failed to sell shares in a company he used to work for. Stephen Timmins, a Social Security minister, is to be forced to dispose of the shares in Ovum after Conservatives claimed the holding could cause a conflict of interest.

A written answer to Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative Social Security spokesman, stressed that the responsibility for disposing of interests lay with Mr Timmins.

Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, said no conflict had occurred but added: "The Minister of State will be taking further steps in accordance with the ministerial code."

THE HOUSE



Couples 'worse off on tax'

FRANCIS MAUDE, the shadow Chancellor, attacked the Government's tax record, claiming that married couples with a mortgage were £200-a-year worse off under Labour.

Loans claims made quicker

SOCIAL SECURITY minister Angela Eagle announced "major changes" to simplify and speed the Social Fund Budgeting Loan scheme to make it easier for people to apply.

Today's agenda

Commons: Private Members' Bills; Fur Farming (Prohibition) Bill, second reading; Road Traffic (Vehicle Testing) Bill, second reading; marine rescue services debate. Lords: Not sitting.

Supporting life' falls a small hurdle

What can that noise be, like heavy cotton being ripped in two?

Members plan to liven up bleak House

WAITING PATIENTLY in the dreary queue at the St Stephen's entrance to the Palace of Westminster, Chris Roberts from Springfield, Missouri, stood with a copy of Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*.

It was not, Mr Roberts guessed, a guide-book. "I'm a politics student over here in Britain for a semester," he explained, "and I wanted to sit in on Question Time. I had heard the line can be quite long, so I got here early."

Mr Roberts might have had a specific reason to queue up in the cold, but most of the hundreds of thousands of people who annually shuffle slowly along do not. They consider the Mother of all Parliaments as nothing more than another tourist attraction, albeit one that costs nothing. But yesterday

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

of the scheme though it needs some more work on it."

Specially commissioned research has suggested that up to 80 per cent of visitors to London visit the Palace of Westminster. But while free public access to Parliament is a fiercely defended democratic principle, many observers admit there is currently little to offer the tourist.

Unless on an organised tour sponsored by an MP, tourists currently have no choice but to queue up until a place in the public gallery becomes available. Sometimes the wait can take what seems like for ever.

Yesterday was a case in point. Even on a cold March morning it took more than an hour from joining the queue until, eventually, one was allowed into the gallery.

On the way there were security checks, more waits, the need to sign a written promise "not to use opera glasses" and a trudge up five flights of stairs. Finally one was confronted by a sign demanding that, on entry to the gallery, there be no clapping or cheering.

Fat chance of that. Yesterday the seat of democracy was thrilling to the Hon Member for Boring-on-Sea's fascinating insights about the breaking of manifesto pledges on the level of taxation on household fuel.

In the public gallery the tourists looked bored. Down below the Honourable tourist attractions looked equally bored. Another member stood up and said something about small businesses. Everyone jeered, then he sat down.

The tourists in the public gallery looked bemused. Then they got up and trudged back down the five flights of stairs, being careful on their way not to either clap or cheer.

So had it been worth it? "It is very different in Germany," said Klaus Holger, visiting with his girlfriend.

"There you can only watch from behind glass. I don't know much about politics, I am only here for the sightseeing."

George Elkaim, from Paris, was equally non-plussed. "It is all right. I could not really understand everything they were saying," he said.

According to the Serjeant-at-Arms, the only contentious issue in regard to the plan for the Palace of Westminster is over whether to charge an entrance fee.

Only a cynic, of course, would suggest that was because if people had to pay to visit, no one would bother.



Tourists queuing in the cold outside the Palace of Westminster yesterday

Peter Macdiarmid

SECURING A RINGSIDE SEAT

United States: Tourists in Washington may visit the Capitol throughout the year at no charge, although in summer and school holidays they may have to queue for several hours in the open air. One way for Americans to bypass the queues is to secure an invitation from their local Congressman. Visitors are allowed into the House and Senate chambers and can wander the public corridors unescorted.

Australia: The futuristic parliament building in the planned government complex in Canberra is open to visitors for much of the year. Tourists must join organised groups and are given a guided tour, which intersperses information about Australia's history and political system with details of the building's architecture and decor.

India: It is easy and straightforward to gain access to the Indian House of Commons. The only thing a tourist requires, besides a passport, is a letter of introduction from one's embassy or high commission in Delhi. **Germany:** Germany's modern Parliament building, by the Rhine in Bonn, is a major tourist attraction and there are coach parks all around to cope with the daily torrent. Soon, the present Bundestag building will fall vacant, before being converted into a conference centre. At its new premises, the Reichstag in Berlin, Parliament is likely to become even more popular. **China:** China's parliament, the National People's Congress, meets just once a year, in March, and only diplomats, journalists and other accredited observers can gain access to the Great Hall of the People to witness proceedings.



Boothroyd: Supports plans for guided House tours

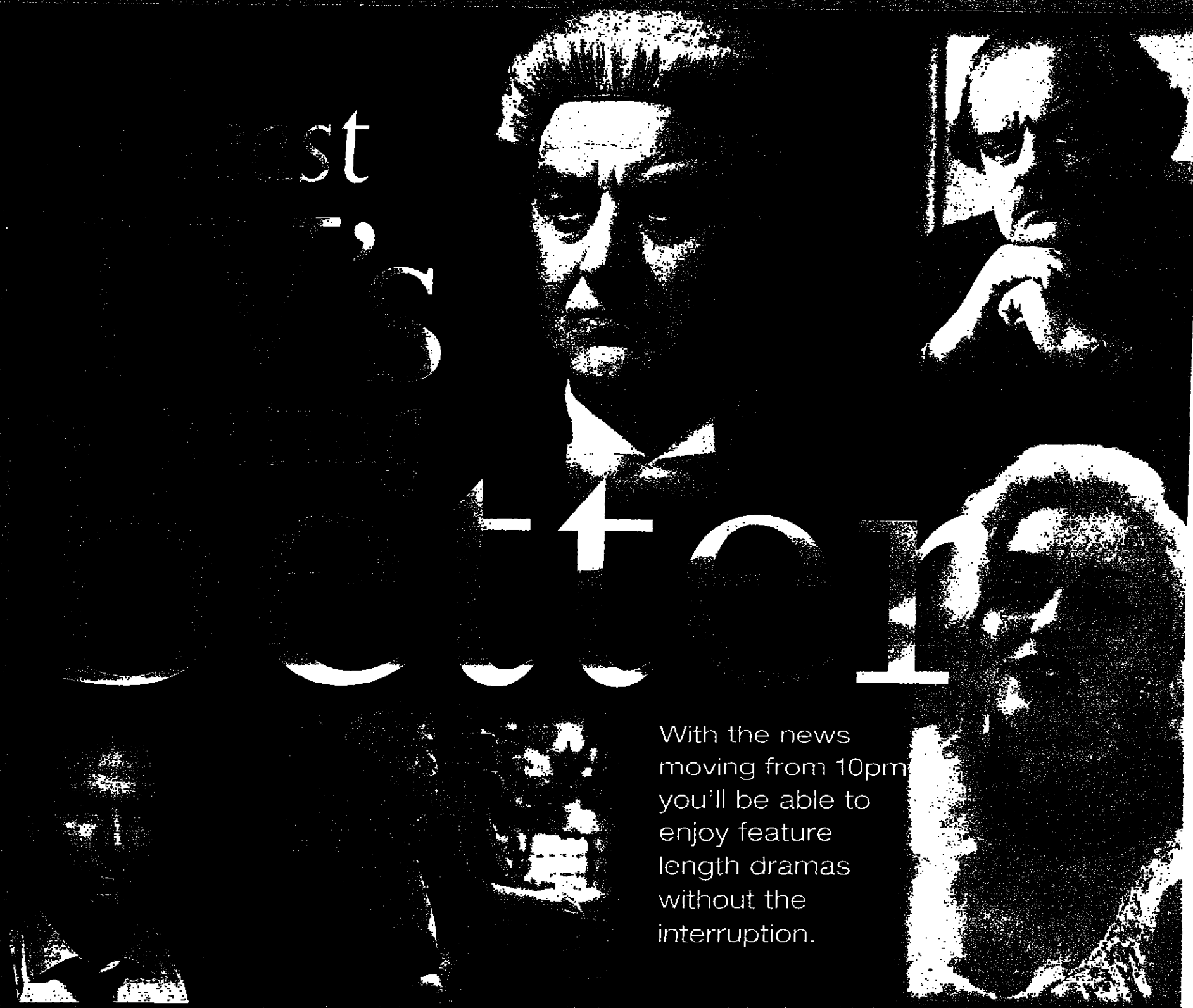
day it was revealed that those within parliament plan to transform the Palace of Westminster into an all-singing, all-dancing attraction that will charge up to £6.50 for in-depth tours during the summer months when the houses are in recess.

There will be tours of the Royal Gallery, visits to the robing rooms and trips to the division lobbies. Under the plan, currently being considered by the Commons administration committee, tourists will be further lured by up-market souvenirs, ranging from pencils to brooches. At the moment they can buy little more than a few postcards.

"It is a very exciting project. We want to ensure that we offer the very best," said Peter Jennings, the Serjeant-at-Arms in the Commons. "We believe that what we plan to put on offer will represent very good value for money."

A spokesman for the Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd, said: "The Speaker is very much in favour

HUMAN CLONING NOW A REALITY?



With the news moving from 10pm you'll be able to enjoy feature length dramas without the interruption.

more feature length dramas from March 8th

itv

'Sporting Life' falls at final hurdle

PLANS TO launch Britain's first national daily sports newspaper have been ditched, Mirror Group confirmed yesterday.

About 40 members of staff on the ill-fated *Sporting Life* project were told by Jeremy Reed, the managing director of the group's sports division, that jobs on other Mirror titles would be found for them if they wanted. The final decision to scrap the enterprise was taken after research revealed that the maximum circulation the title could hope to achieve was 200,000.

"An investment of £10m to £15m would have been required," a Mirror Group spokesman said. "And at that level of circulation, there was no guarantee of a return on the investment." The spokesman added that while the *Sporting Life* brand name would remain alive on the Internet, there was no prospect of the title being revived by the Mirror Group in print form.

A significant factor in the demise of the *Sporting Life* was the departure of David Montgomery as the Mirror Group's chief executive in January. Mr Montgomery's successor, John Allwood, is understood to have told executives to establish quickly whether the paper would yield a speedy return or

BY RHYS WILLIAMS
AND PAUL MCCANN

be little more than a long-term status symbol of dubious financial potential.

The reaction among former staff yesterday oscillated between bitterness and philosophical resignation. One journalist estimated that the aborted relaunch had cost Mirror Group more than £2.5m. "The decision was supposedly made this week because research showed it would only sell 200,000 to 225,000. But last year, the break-even point was supposed to be sales of 150,000."

John Mulholland, now deputy editor of *The Observer*, was originally drafted in to revive the *Sporting Life* last March. Weeks before the 19 October publication date, recruitment was frozen and the launch delayed on the basis that more research was needed. Mr Mulholland left.

Another former staffer said: "It was always going to be a gamble but, once John left, I think we all suspected the project was doomed. I don't think *The Mirror* had any long-term view of what they were trying to do. 'All at sea' would be a good description of their behaviour."

Mirror Group profits. Business, page 18

PHILIP HENSHER



What can that noise be, like heavy cotton being ripped in two?

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

Latest Technology at the Lowest Prices

We won't be beaten on price

PRINTERS

LOWEST PRICED PRINTER

OLIVETTI Colour Inkjet Printer
Up to 600 x 300 dpi resolution. Up to 3 pages per minute. Includes black and colour cartridges. MODEL: IP 192

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£129.99~~ **£69.99**

LEXMARK Colour Inkjet Printer
Up to 1200 dpi resolution. Up to 6 pages per minute. Includes Disney Print Studio Software. MODEL: C1 5200

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£149.99~~ **£139.99** **SAVE £10**

EPSON Colour Inkjet Printer
Up to 1440 x 720 dpi resolution. Includes Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 photo editing software. MODEL: Stylus Photo 700

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£199.99~~ **£169** **SAVE £30**

HEWLETT PACKARD Colour Inkjet Printer
Up to 600 dpi resolution at up to 10 pages per minute. PLUS £40 off when you trade in your old printer. MODEL: D1855C

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£229.99~~ **£189.99** **TRADE-IN PRICE** **£40**

HEWLETT PACKARD A3 Colour Inkjet Printer
600 dpi resolution at up to 6.5 pages per minute. Prints double sided, banners, multi-page brochures and billboard posters up to A1 in size. MODEL: D1120C

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£399.99~~ **£349** **SAVE £50**

free serve for free unlimited internet access
Pick up a free disc in-store today!

The fast and easy way to a fully featured Internet Package for the cost of a local call
www.freeserve.net

8.4Gb HARD DISK

US ROBOTICS 56k v.90 MODEM

NEW PENTIUM III PROCESSOR

ADVENT Intel® Pentium® III Processor 450MHz

- 64Mb (Fast 100MHz) SyncDRAM
- 8.4Gb UltraDMA Seagate Hard Disk Drive
- 32x CD-ROM Drive
- 8Mb ATI Rage Pro 2D/3D Graphics Card
- 64-bit Creative Labs Soundblaster Card and Speakers
- US Robotics 56k v.90 Modem
- 1 YEAR FREE ON-SITE SERVICING

MODEL: Advent 8700



PC WORLD PRICE **£1056.33** INC VAT

EXCLUSIVE OFFER!

FREE PENTIUM III PROCESSOR ENHANCED SOFTWARE* TRIPLE PACK
WITH ALL NEW PENTIUM III PROCESSOR BASED PCs

ZIP 250

Looking for an efficient and safe back up device? The new Zip 250 offers 250Mb of storage capacity on removable Zip disks, compatibility with existing 100Mb disks, affordability, reliability and performance. Full software suite is also included to help you make the most of your new drive. MODEL: Iomega Zip 250 SCSI

NEW! The Superlenny Preferred By Millions - Now It's 250MB Capacity!

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£249.99~~ **£159** **INC VAT**

KODAK Digital Camera

1152 x 864 max resolution, 2x optical zoom, 8Mb Compact Flash memory supplied. Stores up to 120 images. MODEL: Kodak DC210

WAS £399

PC WORLD PRICE **£349** **INC VAT**

SAVE £50

COREL DRAW v8 FULL VERSION

This comprehensive award-winning graphics suite includes applications for page layout and illustration, photo editing and bitmap creation, and 3D modelling and rendering.

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£199.99~~ **£99** **INC VAT**

EXCLUSIVE PRICE!

HEWLETT PACKARD Colour Inkjet Printer

Up to 600 dpi resolution at up to 8 pages per minute in black. Up to 7 pages per minute colour printing. PLUS £30 off when you trade in your old printer. MODEL: D1720C

USUAL PRICE ~~£219.99~~ **£189** **INC VAT**

£159 **TRADE-IN PRICE**

£30 **TRADE-IN**

HEWLETT PACKARD Flatbed Scanner

600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution. 36-bit true colour. Parallel port interface. Includes HP's intelligent scanning software. MODEL: Hewlett Packard 3200C

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£179.99~~ **£79.99** **INC VAT**

NEW

RE-WRITABLE CD RECORDER

6x Playback, 2x Write, 2x Re-write. MODEL: Traxdata 2260 + EIDE

WAS £229

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£299.99~~ **£199** **INC VAT**

SAVE £30

PERIPHERALS

56K EXTERNAL FAX MODEM
High speed Internet access and the ability to send and receive faxes. MODEL: 5600/US Robotics

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£99.99~~ **£79.99** **NEW**

3.2Gb HARD DRIVE
An excellent value hard drive with all the components necessary for easy installation. MODEL: Quantum

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£129.99~~ **£99.99** **NEW**

ZIP STARTER KIT
100Mb of data storage per disk. Includes 7 disks. MODEL: Iomega

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£129.99~~ **£129** **NEW**

DIGITAL CAMERA
1024 x 768 max resolution, 4Mb SmartMedia memory supplied. Stores up to 20 images. MODEL: Olympus C-1000L

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£299.99~~ **£299** **SAVE £200**

SCANNERS

FLATBED SCANNER
600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution. Parallel port interface. MODEL: Hewlett Packard 3200C

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£179.99~~ **£79.99** **SAVE £20**

FLATBED SCANNER
600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution. USB interface. MODEL: Hewlett Packard 4100C

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£149.99~~ **£99** **SAVE £50**

FLATBED SCANNER
600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution. High speed SCSI interface. 36-bit true colour. MODEL: Epson GT7000

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£299.99~~ **£199** **SAVE £100**

FLATBED SCANNER
600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution. Parallel and USB interface, versatile scanner for the office professional. MODEL: Hewlett Packard 5200C

PC WORLD PRICE ~~£299.99~~ **£199** **NEW**

STORES NATIONWIDE.
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE
CALL 0990 464 464
OR SHOP ON-LINE AT
www.pcworld.co.uk

We won't be beaten on price

This promise that if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local retail store within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference guaranteed - provided you can produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer.

PC WORLD

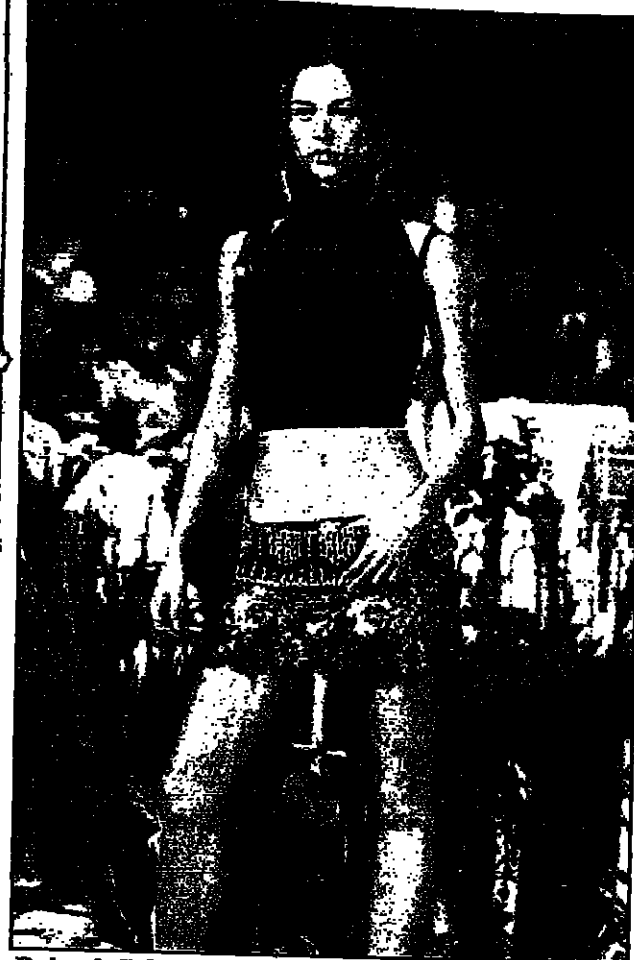
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

APR 19.9%

Top Value 150

Doctors will still cover up mistakes

Moral guardian sought for Net



Dolce & Gabbana's vivid flowers, colours and animal prints brightening up Milan yesterday *Luca Bruno/AP*

Rainbow colours burst through sludge of Milan

BY SUSANNAH FRANKEL
Fashion Editor

DOMENICO DOLCE and Stefano Gabbana brought a little slice of Sicily to a rainswept Milan yesterday. Roses, wheat sheaves, oranges and lemons formed an exuberant backdrop to a collection that was hot and vividly coloured throughout.

Not for Dolce & Gabbana the sludgy hues that have dominated the Milan catwalks so far. Instead, fluorescent yellow, green, orange and pink was the order of the day.

Perhaps the most clever thing about the collection was that all the Dolce & Gabbana famous hallmarks were in place. There were big Fifties-style bras - the pair have a shrine to the corset in their Milan showroom - worn under sheer stretchy black evening wear and there was the sexiest, curvy footwear seen on the catwalk this season so far. A



Stefano Gabbana (left) and Domenico Dolce

newer trouser shape, skinny and cropped a little below the knee is, equally, a look that the designers have by now made their own. Despite this, overall, the collection had a happily fresh feel.

Earlier this week, Gabbana said he was tired of fashion and of the pressure on designers to reinvent themselves season after season in particular.

Strange, then, that the autumn/winter 2000 Dolce & Gabbana show seemed so full of joy. Trousers cut off at the knee were scattered with psychedelic flowers - Woodstock has never looked so luxe. These were worn with camisole tops, sequinned to mimic leopard print and the look was finished with snakeskin biker boots in equally lurid hues. For evening

there were signature jewel-encrusted opera coats.

True, the show was not recommended for shrinking violets, but then that is not the Dolce & Gabbana market. Clashing colours, colliding prints and more diamonds than Barbara Cartland's jewellery box will suit the very brave, sexy and beautiful down to the ground.

Those with a slightly more demure dress sense, meanwhile, will not be disappointed with immaculately tailored narrow black coats, although even these, cutely, boasted bright animal or floral-print linings.

There was plenty of fur, of course - this is Milan, a city hardly famous for being politically correct. Rabbit and mink dyed in all the colours of the rainbow looked, well, expensive. Even by Italian standards, Dolce & Gabbana were pushing it sending out little fur hats shaped like flower pots - Bill and Ben is not what fashion needs.

Doctors will still cover up mistakes

DOCTORS ARE still reluctant to tell patients when they make an error, despite warnings that they could be struck off if they try to bury their mistakes.

Four out of ten specialists surveyed for a study, published in the *British Medical Journal*, said they did not believe patients should always be told when a complication occurred and two-thirds did not agree that the patients should be given detailed information about the possible consequences. In contrast, more than nine out of ten patients said they should be told about a mistake and more than eight out of ten said they would want to know what might happen as a result.

The findings come after a series of cases that have highlighted the institutional secrecy of medicine and the tendency of doctors to close ranks and cover for errant colleagues. Hearings begin later this month in the Bristol baby deaths inquiry, which will examine how warnings about the high death rate at Bristol Royal Infirmary during the late 1980s and early 1990s went unheeded for years.

The General Medical Council, the doctors' disciplinary body, revised its guidance on good medical practice in 1997. It now says that after an adverse event a full and honest explanation and an apology should be provided routinely.

In the study, Dr Leslie Hingorani and colleagues at the Central Middlesex Hospital, London, asked a group of patients attending an ophthalmology clinic to imagine an incident in which a surgeon carrying out a cataract operation makes a small error, as a result

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

of which the lens capsule breaks.

The surgeon has to insert stitches and a larger lens than he planned and there is a one in ten chance that the patient's vision will be affected. However, next day the patient, a woman, "sees well and is pleased. Should she be told?"

Of 248 patients questioned, 92 per cent said they would want to be told and 81 per cent said they would want details of what could happen. Among 48 consultant ophthalmologists 60 per cent said the patient should be told and 33 per cent believed she should be given details.

The authors say that doctors may be reluctant to tell out of a desire to protect patients from anxiety. But they may also fear losing the patient's trust, being blamed and perhaps sued. Yet many studies show that failing to provide information increases the risk of litigation and the longer an explanation is left the more difficult it is to provide. They add: "The practice of medicine can never be free of errors and changes are required in the attitudes of both patients and the medical profession."

The General Medical Council said doctors who fail to acknowledge mistakes could face misconduct charges.

The British Medical Association warned that 350 obstetricians were facing redundancy because there are too few consultant posts for the number being trained. It called on the Government to establish new consultant posts "to provide recommended standards of care in labour".

Moral guardians sought for Net

WANTED: PERSON to look at hardcore pornography on the Internet. Absolutely must not be interested in pornography. Paedophiles and perverts are especially unwelcome.

Strange though it sounds, that is what the Internet Watch Foundation - an organisation based in Cambridge that monitors the legality of images on the Net - requires. In an advert placed this week in the *Cambridge Evening News*, it is seeking two people to work on its hotline, performing daily checks on websites and newsgroups that members of the public have complained about, to see whether they are obscene - and possibly report the owners to the police.

However, the foundation, recognising some people might find it too enjoyable a job, has added the following proviso to

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

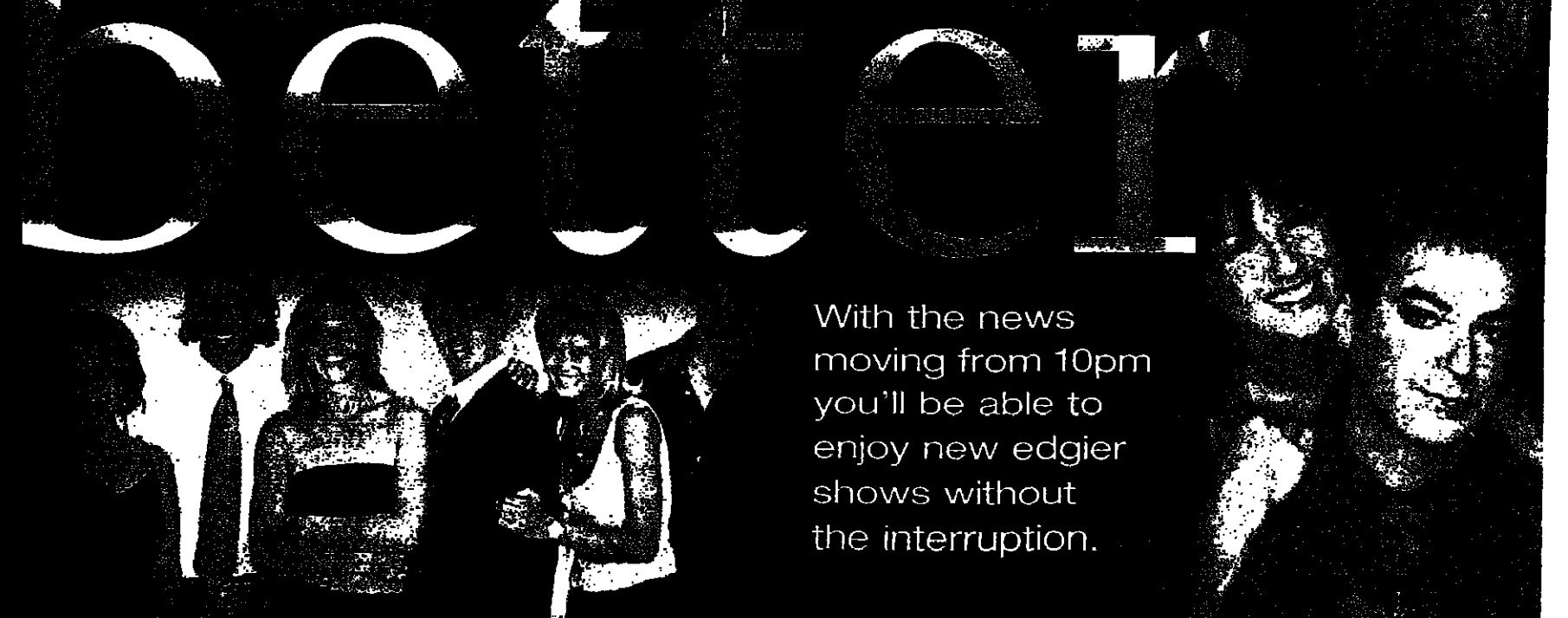
the advert: "You will be involved in assessing hardcore pornographic images involving both adults and children. (Do not apply if that sounds attractive to you.)"

Ruth Dixon, the hotline manager, said it will not be possible to check applicants' criminal records. "As we are not physically working with children, we don't have access to those police checks," she said. "But we will follow up all references very closely."

She added: "We decided to put the warning on the advert to stop people applying who would be shocked and to acknowledge that there might be a small minority of people who might want to apply for the job for the wrong reasons."

FRANKENSTEIN FOODS: RISKS UNKNOWN?

At least
TV's
getting
COOL



With the news moving from 10pm you'll be able to enjoy new edgier shows without the interruption.

new edgier shows from March 8th

itv

Patten is Blair's favourite in race for 'Mr Europe'

CHRIS PATTEN, the former governor of Hong Kong and one-time chairman of the Conservative Party, has emerged as a contender for the post of Europe's new and influential foreign policy supremo.

Allies of Mr Patten, 55, one of the leading figures on the Tory left, believe he is well-suited to the post, and one senior European diplomat yesterday described his prospects

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels
AND ANDREW GRICE

as "strong". He has also been tipped as a possible member of the European Commission, but becoming Europe's first "high representative" is seen as an alternative. Friends said he would be keen on either job, as he is reluctant to return to Westminster politics.

Potentially the "Mr Europe" post is much more powerful than that of a commissioner, since the holder would aim to ensure a swift, co-ordinated EU response to crises in trouble spots such as Bosnia and Kosovo. The creation of the post is designed to answer Henry Kissinger's famous question: "Who do you call when you want to call Europe?" Britain can expect to have a

big say in the appointment because of its prominent role in security matters, and Tony Blair's enthusiasm for a European defence identity. There are few declared candidates, although Carlos Westerndorp, a former Spanish foreign minister and EU representative in Bosnia, has entered the race. Also interested is the former Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring. Although experienced

and admired on the international stage, Mr Spring suffers the disadvantage of coming from a neutral country.

Mr Blair is keen to appoint pro-EU Tories to key jobs as part of his drive to end "tribal" politics - and to highlight the Tory split over Europe.

Currently leading a commission into reforms of the Royal Ulster Constabulary at Mr Blair's request, Mr Patten

has foreign policy experience, having served as minister for overseas development, and as governor of Hong Kong. His tough line against the Chinese divides opinion. Some EU leaders argue that his aggressiveness then bodes ill for the consensus-building required of the job; others believe that only a tough operator can forge a convincing EU foreign policy. However, Mr Patten's prospects

depend on a complicated patchwork of horse-trading, with a range of top jobs due to be decided in the summer including the president of the Commission and secretary-general of Nato.

The creation of the "Mr Europe" job stems from the failure of Europe to assert itself in the former Yugoslavia, and the reliance on a sometimes reluctant American leadership.



Patten: Tipped for top job

Cable car pilot not guilty of killings

THE PILOT of a US surveillance aircraft was acquitted yesterday on all charges relating to the cable car disaster that killed 20 people in an Italian ski resort last year in a verdict that revived the shock and resentment felt in Italy.

The acquittal was greeted with cheers from the man's family in the courtroom and silence and tears from relatives of the victims. The Marine jet sliced through the cables of the ski lift during a low-flying training flight, sending all those inside to their deaths at the northern ski resort of Cavalese on 3 February last year.

The pilot, Captain Richard Ashby, was charged with involuntary manslaughter and a series of offences, including destruction of property and dereliction of duty, which could have brought an aggregate prison sentence of more than 20 years.

Yesterday, however, after a two-week court martial at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and almost eight hours of deliberation, the eight members of the military jury acquitted the pilot on all charges.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

Within minutes of the verdict being announced, John Eaves, a lawyer representing the families of the seven German victims, emerged from the courtroom to express his clients' shock and disappointment. "They don't understand the verdict," he said. "There's no justice in the world."

Mr Eaves also contested the US administration's decision to pay the Italian cable car company \$20m in compensation rather than addressing the claims of the victims' families. They must now sue through other courts to obtain compensation.

The charges against Captain Ashby were based on allegations that he and his navigator deliberately flouted low-flying regulations to engage in a risky practice known as "flattopping", flying as fast and as near to the ground as possible.

The prosecution cited the presence of a video-camera on the flight to support the theory that the captain - whose last flight this was before his transfer



Stunned relatives of one of the victims of the cable car disaster leaving the courtroom at Camp Lejeune yesterday. Randy Davey/Reuters

to fighter pilot training - was out to show bravado and test the limits of his flying expertise. Prosecution lawyers also claimed that the aircraft's four-man crew had tampered with the camera, destroying an incriminating video and replacing it with a blank.

In acquitting Captain Ashby, the jury appeared to accept the

arguments of his defence counsel that the accident was caused by an optical illusion, which made objects seem further away than they were.

The defence also argued that equipment may have malfunctioned and that when the pilot realised he was flying too close to the ground, he adjusted the aircraft's height - a mea-

sure, they said, that he would not have taken if he had set out to flout the regulations.

In the course of the trial, it emerged that the Marines used US military maps that did not show cables, rather than local maps which did, and that there was confusion in the command about the altitude regulations for low flying. The local com-

mander was removed soon after the accident.

The disaster caused an upsurge of anti-American feeling in Italy to the point where President Bill Clinton offered an official apology. Residents of Cavalese and other Alpine regions overthrown by US military aircraft complained that pilots habitually broke the rules

on low flying and disregarded the safety of local people.

Yesterday's verdict was expected to precipitate a resurgence of the hostility towards the United States being voiced in Italy - hostility that will only be compounded if, as is forecast, the court martial of the aircraft's navigator is now dropped as well.

Brunei strikes it rich again

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

THE GOVERNMENT of the oil-rich state of Brunei has been secretly engaged in a three-month salvage operation that has yielded a treasure trove of Chinese porcelain, jade and gold from a shipwreck.

The Singapore Straits Times quoted Gunawardena Nalin, chief engineer of the barge Marine Lodge, which was the operation's nerve-centre, as saying 60 to 70 people were involved. A Brunei naval vessel kept away intruders.

The ceramics are believed to be from the Ming dynasty (1368 to 1644). Jade was also found. Mr Nalin said some consisted of uncut stones the size of a man's fist. As the operation was coming to an end, gold ingots also came to light but the divers were told to leave them for another team to recover.

The value of the haul is not known, because experts from Brunei and French museums, who were involved in the operation, have refused to comment. But it appears to be an important find. A Singaporean ceramics expert believes the ship was on an export mission from China.

The operation, which took place in the middle of last year but has only just come to light, was undertaken just as Brunei started to feel the chill of the Asian financial crisis and was being forced into unaccustomed economies.

Kurd protesters were shot in back by Israeli guards

THE INVESTIGATION into the fatal shooting of four Kurdish protesters in front of the Israeli general consulate in Berlin last month was plunged into controversy yesterday amid German hints that the Israelis lied about the event.

According to German witnesses, the Israeli guards fired at demonstrators as they were being the building. Two of the four victims were shot from behind, say the German policemen who had been on guard.

Israel had always maintained that its guards had fired in self-defence, fearing that the building was about to be stormed by demonstrators enraged by the capture of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

BY IMRE KARACS
in Berlin

Kurdish newspapers had reported that Israel's secret service, Mossad, had played a role in the affair.

Kurdish protesters occupied several diplomatic missions throughout Europe, smashing furniture and holding some diplomats hostage. Israel has said its guards opened fire in Berlin because the consulate was about to be overrun.

But yesterday, speaking before a committee of Berlin's regional parliament, Hans-Jürgen Karge, the state prosecutor leading the investigation, said the Israeli account did not tally with statements of German policemen. Due to the "contra-



Abdullah Ocalan: His arrest triggered protests

dictions", he could not confirm the Israeli view that the Kurds were shot in self-defence.

Mr Karge said German police had reported that the two Israeli guards had opened fire

on the crowd outside the building, and not within the consulate, as the Israelis said. While Israel claims its guards shot in the air or aimed at protesters' legs, Mr Karge confirmed that two of the victims were hit in the head by bullets.

Mr Karge did not dispute the claim that self-defence must have played some role, in view of the violent nature of the protest. "But prosecutors cannot definitively say whether this was true for the whole sequence of events," he added.

Although the Greens in Berlin have called for a commission of inquiry, there is little chance of a full investigation, as the guards enjoyed diplomatic immunity and both have returned to Israel.

Nursery expels Arab infant

THIS WILL not look good on his curriculum vitae. At a later age Wassim Huri, an Israeli-Arab from Beersheba in southern Israel, will have to admit he was expelled from school.

It happened earlier this week when Alona Ben Sheerit, one of Wassim's teachers, told his parents that he must leave the school.

His career prospects are unlikely to be damaged. For a start Wassim is not yet two years old.

The reason Ms Ben Sheerit, who is also the pre-school director of the school, asked him to leave was that two Jewish parents complained that they did not want their children to play with an Arab.

Yakov Turner, the mayor of Beersheba, immediately appealed to the nursery school teacher to reinstate the infant. His father, Philip Huri, an engineer, said he would not let his son go back to a kindergarten

that has caused his family such pain and shame.

Ms Ben Sheerit now has second thoughts. She now says she made a mistake. She told Israel's Channel Two television: "I was under pressure. I told parents I could no longer receive their son in pre-school." Since the case was publicised by the Israeli media the Huri family has been deluged with offers of a place in other kindergartens in Beersheba willing to take their son.

"Many teachers have called us," said Mr Huri. "Everything has worked out fine. My wife is choosing a new pre-school today."

The Israeli Education Ministry said it was wrong to have expelled the infant but added it could take no action because the kindergarten was privately owned.

BIGGER PACKS, BETTER VALUE

PREMIUM DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

VITAMIN C 1000 mg
with Bioflavonoids
250 Tablets
£12.49

ODOUR-CONTROLLED GARLIC
300 mg
250 Tablets
£5.49

NATURAL HERBAL REMEDIES

ECHINACEA
400 mg
200 Capsules
£10.49

100% NATURAL ALOE VERA JUICE
1000 ml
£8.99

NUTRITIONAL OILS

EVENING PRIMROSE OIL
1000 mg
240 Capsules
£12.49

HIGH STRENGTH COD LIVER OIL
1000 mg
240 Capsules
£8.59

HOLLAND & BARRETT

We Guarantee Everyday Low Prices
By manufacturing our own products we can keep everyday prices low.
We aim to be up to 30% cheaper than our competitors on all directly comparable products.
Over 420 Stores Nationwide
Subject to availability.

IN BRIEF

Nigeria frees 47 political prisoners

NGERIA'S OUTGOING military government freed at least 47 political prisoners on death row for allegedly planning a coup against former dictator General Sani Abacha. The move was an attempt to calm unrest by militants who want a separate state for the Yoruba of south-west Nigeria.

Cannibal sentenced to death

AMAN in the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan was sentenced to death for murdering two victims before eating their flesh. Pavel Gorobets had admitted murdering his friend, Viktor Grekhovodov, and his girlfriend, Valentina Kashina, and turning them into "meat cutlets".

Mass suicide attempt in jail

TWENTY-SIX jail inmates stabbed themselves in the stomach in an attempted mass suicide to protest at prison conditions in Kazakhstan. The attempted suicides, with handmade knives, took place in Atyrau, 900 miles west of the capital, Astana, the Interior Ministry said.

Snake assault conviction upheld

THE MONTANA Supreme Court has upheld the assault conviction of Michael Roullier, who used his poisonous snake in an attempt to ward off two police officers trying to arrest him in 1996. To stop one officer using pepper spray, he threatened suicide by turning the snake on himself.

Australian settler's relic found

The gravestone of a mother and her baby who died in 1803 was found yesterday beneath Sydney's skyscrapers yards from where white settlement began in Sydney Cove in 1788. Very few artefacts found in the city date from before 1810.

Suicide ends a tragic tale of love and snobbery

A 13-YEAR-**LONG** tale of love, compassion, prejudice and snobbery has been brought to a Shakespearean close in a shabby apartment in St Etienne in the centre of France.

Marie Arbant, 43, was rescued from prostitution in 1987 by an investigating judge who then fell in love with her.

He was later dismissed for dishonouring his profession. Early this week Marie tried to rescue the judge.

She killed herself, apparently in the belief that her death would enable him to resume his ruined career.

Marie's body was discovered on Tuesday by Philippe Le Friant, the former judge, who had been "sold" into prostitution by her husband when in her twenties.

Mainly, the judge insisted, he was persecuted out of professional snobbery, even though he and Marie did not become lovers until after he was dismissed.

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

The couple had written a book together, *The Judge and the Prostitute*.

They had twice gone on hunger strike to press his claim for reinstatement. They had been the subject of dozens of articles and television programmes in France.

The possibility of a film about their story was under discussion.

After being given, and then losing, a job as a legal lecturer, Mr Le Friant had found work in a factory, until a machine crushed his hand. He was living on a disability pension of \$80 a week.

A few weeks ago Marie wrote to the Justice Minister, Elisabeth Guigou, threatening to commit suicide unless Mr Le Friant, 51, was given another job in the judicial system. "Do I have to disappear before Philippe can go back to his work?" she asked.

On Tuesday, Mr Le Friant, after hearing nothing from Marie for a week, found her body in her small apartment in the industrial town of St Etienne.

enne. She had taken an overdose of barbiturates. She left no note.

The couple met in 1986, when Mr Le Friant was an investigative judge in Lyons, known as the "whores' judge", because he specialised in dismantling prostitution rings. A man of left-wing sympathies, he also belonged to a voluntary organisation that tried to persuade street-walkers to abandon and give evidence against their pimps. (Prostitution is legal in France but pimping is not).

"It was long and delicate work," he wrote later. "The girls would often crack under the strain... Marie stood out as different from the others, because there was no ambiguity about her attitude to the pimps: she hated them."

One night in 1987, he got a desperate phone call from Marie, saying that her life was in danger because she had given information to him. He invited her to hide at his home and informed his boss of what he had done.

Disciplinary procedures were started against him. The following year he was dismissed for having "betrayed the honour of the magistracy". Specifically, he was accused of having given Marie a weapon to protect herself and having interfered in legal proceedings to help her, including one case concerning the custody of her two daughters.

Mr Le Friant began a long campaign for his reinstatement, which appeared to have succeeded when he was granted a pardon by the late President, François Mitterrand, in 1993.

No suitable post was offered to him by the judicial establishment, however.

It seemed that he was about to be employed when the government changed in 1997 and the new Justice Minister, Ms Guigou, put his case on hold.

After his dismissal, Philippe and Marie became lovers, living together from 1988 to 1995. Even after they split, they remained friends and Marie went on hunger strike with him to dramatise his grievances last year and again in January. She appeared increasingly depressed, however, and convinced that she was to blame for all that had happened.



The former judge Philippe Le Friant and Marie Arbant, the prostitute he rescued

Sipa/Rea Features

that
feeling
of catching someone
looking longingly at
your car now comes
with



FIAT BRAVO. FIAT BRAVA.

Phone: 0800 71 7000 www.fiat.co.uk

FIAT

Serbs are trapped in Kosovo stand-off

MORE THAN 300 Yugoslav police backed by armoured vehicles were camped out yesterday on the edge of territory held by Kosovo rebels, awaiting the release of a Serb soldier held by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

The tense stand-off followed a shootout in which two Serbian brothers were killed. The soldier, the 21-year-old son of one of the brothers shot by the KLA, and about 11 other Serbs were reported to be trapped in the small Serb enclave of Mijalic, held by the KLA.

Hundreds of Albanian villagers living in the area began to leave their homes seeking shelter elsewhere as the afternoon wore on. They feared military action by police and hundreds of Yugoslav soldiers, backed by tanks, deployed on the hills nearby.

The civilians, mostly women and children carrying plastic bags, walked purposefully across fields and railway tracks seeking refuge with friends and relatives. They said that more than 1,000 people were leaving the area.

"We are afraid there will be an attack here," said Zymer, who was driving out a tractor-trailer loaded with women and children. "We have had no problems with the police in the past but the children are scared." His home village, Durvar, is shared by Serbs and Albanians. "We speak to each other - it's not too friendly, but there were no problems," he said.

According to international monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Radivoje Mitrovic and his brother Ljubisa were shot dead when they tried to run a KLA check-point in the village of Mijalic.

In Moscow, meanwhile, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, failed to gain a commitment from Russia to contribute

BY EMMA DALY
in Mijalic

troops to a future Nato-led peacekeeping operation in Kosovo.

Russia and Britain had agreed jointly to make sure that the Serbs and Kosovo Albanians turned up at the next round of the peace talks on 15 March and to ensure they did not breach the ceasefire in the meantime.

However, Russia's foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, was sticking to Moscow's formula that, since Yugoslavia was a sovereign state, Russian troops could only go into Kosovo at Belgrade's invitation.

"Speaking for myself," said Mr Cook, "I would warmly welcome a Russian presence in any international force necessary to implement a peace agreement in Kosovo. It is for Russia to decide whether it wants to take part."

"But Russia was a valued partner in Bosnia and would be a valued partner in Kosovo," he said.

The Foreign Secretary repeated that Britain was willing to commit 8,000 troops.

Mr Cook said Russian troops had worked alongside the Nato command structure in Bosnia and there had been no problem.

A similar arrangement could be worked out for Kosovo.

In a move certain to exacerbate tensions with Serbia, Montenegro announced it is unilaterally abolishing entry visa requirements.

The decision allows visa-free travel into Montenegro, which along with Serbia forms the Yugoslav federation. Serbia insists on visas from foreigners and has already rejected numerous appeals to relax the requirements, in spite of the damage it has inflicted on Montenegro's once-prosperous tourism sector.

first direct

why not
bank for
free?

for 24 hour banking call free
0800 24 24 24

www.firstdirect.co.uk

Free banking means that there are no charges for cheques and cash machine withdrawals in the UK, standing orders and direct debits, Switch payments or monthly statements. For full written details of our services, write to First Direct, Freeport, Leeds LS28 2PL. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over. First Direct variable interest rate for overdrafts up to £250 is 12.99% EAR. Credit is subject to status. Member HSBC Group

Berlin's salon society prepares a refined welcome

EUROPEAN TIMES
BERLIN

EVERY ONCE in a while, a luxury hotel, shop or opulent restaurant opens in this distinctly proletarian metropolis, claiming direct descent from some famous institution of the golden age between the wars.

At great cost, the building would have been assembled, after a painstaking search for the authentic bricks of the original and exact replicas of chandeliers and marble cherubs. The locals turn up in their thousands to gape, and the owners wait for the real customers. Many are still waiting. Berlin is vibrant, cosmopolitan, in parts loaded and full of scorn for the provinces. But what it lacks is people with a sense of style.

Post-war construction in both halves of the city has been hideous: featureless concrete housing estates facing off across the line of the Wall. There was no great demand for anything else - not many connoisseurs of any kind were left. The Nazis took care of the Roaring Twenties set. The *haute bourgeoisie* had been largely Jewish. The decadent

aristocracy were driven out and the Communist lords of the East mopped up the remnants, or drove them into the West. Only the occupying powers kept the old order's flag flying. "The British led very elegant households," remembered Countess Isa von Hardenberg, who arrived in Berlin from Hamburg 14 years ago. And then the occupiers left, too.

Countess von Hardenberg, whose husband hails from a great Berlin family, felt lonely. She set about recreating the society of old, or at least the appearance of one for clients. "At first it was difficult to meet their expectations," she said.

An international company would ask her to organise a reception, but all she could find was potato salad and sour plonk. But when the Prince of Wales came to visit in 1991, she got the contract to organise the royal dinner party. And slowly, the society she craves is be-



Countess von Hardenberg

ginning to emerge. In the past three years, Berlin has witnessed an influx of blue blood - there is once again a Hohenzollern in residence and the nearby Brandenburg forests echo with the sound of the bugle, as hunts give chase.

Berlin is becoming a city of salons, with the drawing room of the countess's villa in the

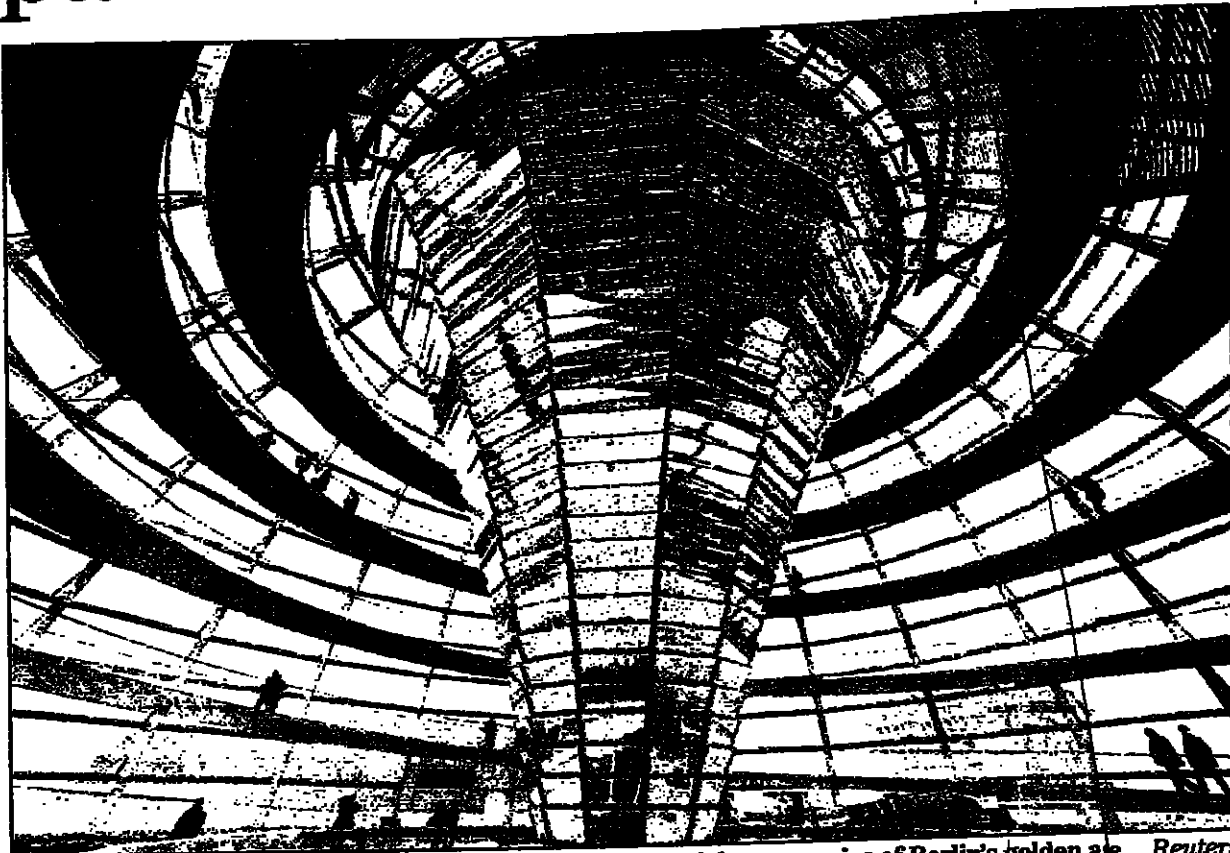
posh district of Nickolassee serving as the central meeting point. She holds open house every month, to welcome promising new residents.

As Berlin's foremost society hostess, she has now diversified her business interests. For a (discreetly undisclosed) fee the countess will get you connected. A limousine service will take a customer around Berlin to find the most desirable addresses. For despite the pretensions, this is a circuit for which one can buy an entrance ticket. There are no balls, no debutants, only "interesting people" and the common denominator of cultural snobbery. "This is a totally new society," the countess says. "The old society is dead."

Elegance is still in short supply, but help is at hand with the imminent move of the federal capital from Bonn to Berlin.

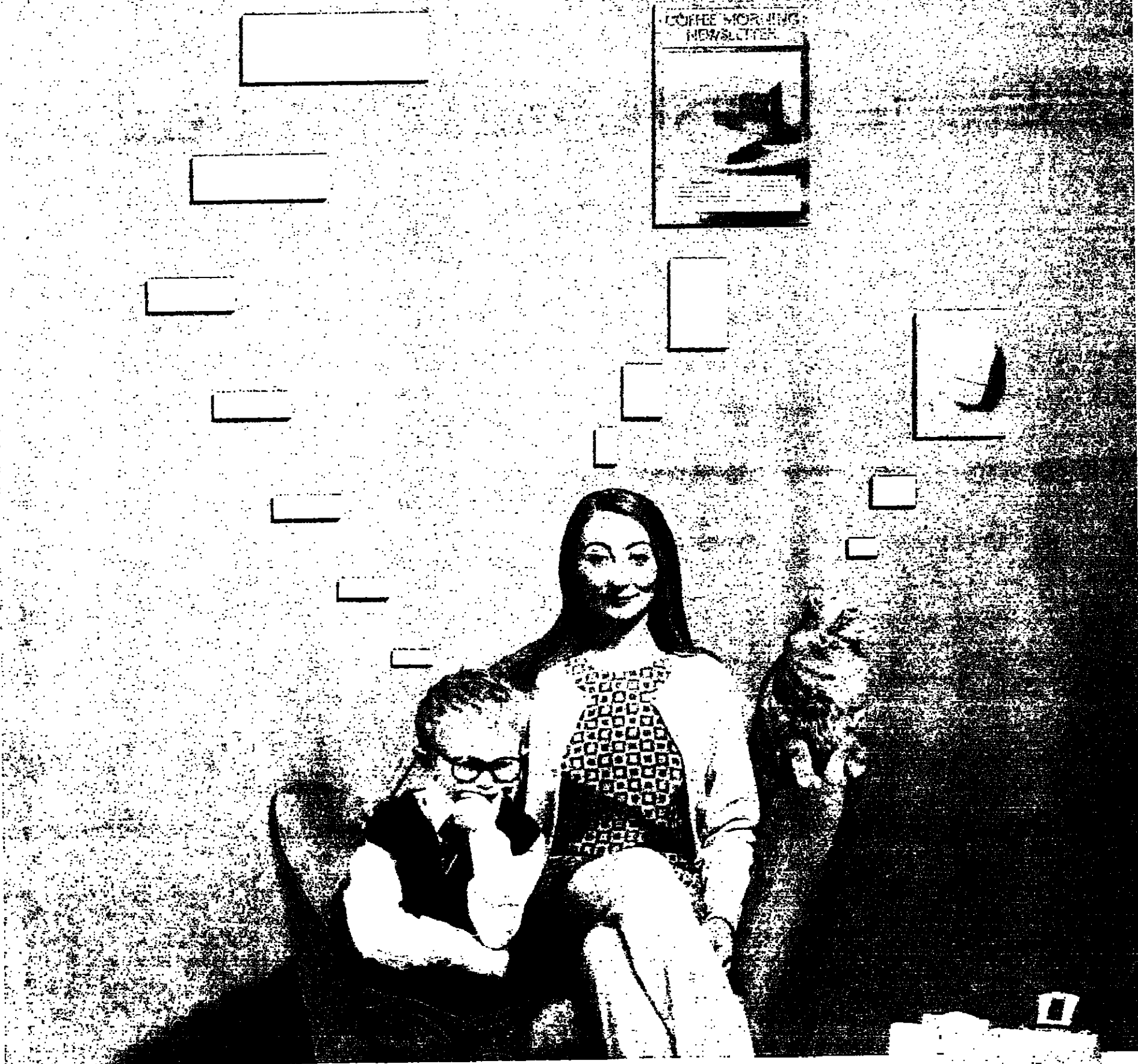
"I think the diplomats will provide a new impulse to social life," the countess says. On whether the politicians might raise the tone, she would rather not comment.

IMRE KARACS



The return of Germany's government to the Reichstag is reviving memories of Berlin's golden age Reuters

A is for Astrophysics



If you can think it, we can print it.

Think of an image. Think of it in colour. Think of it as a photograph. Think how good it would be as a banner. Think of it in fluorescent ink. Think how easy it should be for the whole family to print. Think of Canon. With our extensive range of colour printers, even your wildest ideas can be realised. So if, like Trevor the Cat, you'd like a little more food for thought, think of this number - 0500 987 000 - and call us for details of your nearest supplier or a brochure on the new BJC 2000, BJC 4000 Photo or the complete home printer range.

Canon
www.canon.co.uk

YOU AND
CANON CAN.

Road to Mandalay gives up its secrets

INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered a series of mass graves on the Burmese border that may contain the remains of scores of British and American servicemen.

Experts say the graves of the servicemen, killed in the Second World War, demonstrate for the first time the extent to which the Allies co-operated with the Chinese to repulse Japan's advance into southern Asia. The graves also reveal the heavy casualties they suffered.

The graves under investigation are grouped around the start of the "Stilwell Road". This 300-mile highway was hacked through the mountains and jungles of north-east India and Burma on the orders of the American General Joseph "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell to get supplies to the troops of Chiang Kai-shek, the nationalist Chinese warlord fighting the Japanese from bases in southern China.

With Indian labourers and - as the graves have revealed - thousands of Chinese troops, British and American engineers completed the road in late 1944.

Hundreds of workers died from enemy action, malaria and malnutrition. Their bodies were often buried in hasty, unmarked graves. The Chinese soldiers who formed screens around the construction workers, fending off increasingly frantic Japanese attacks, were buried where they fell. Even keeping the road open was difficult, and led to its being nicknamed the "five men a mile trail".

Tage Tada, deputy director of the government research department of the state of Arunachal Pradesh, started exploring the area last year. His team has found and excavated 11 graves in recent weeks. On is believed to be that of a Chinese commander, the other

BJASON BURKE
in Islamabad

are Chinese soldiers and Indian labourers. The remains are being identified by cap badges and belt buckles, which have survived burial in the rich jungle earth.

Mr Tada believes that it is only a matter of time before his team finds the remains of British and American troops, including some from the "Chindit" force. Their leader, Major-General Orde Wingate, led them guerrilla-style campaigns. It is likely that British troops operating with Wingate behind enemy lines brought their dead to the area where the road was being built. Possibly they wanted them to be buried on soil that was part of the British Empire rather than leaving them in the jungle, Mr Tada said.

After the war, the road fell into disuse.

Mr Tada said that although the Indian government had provided some funds for the team more money was desperately needed. This is an important bit of history and it would be nice if people remembered it properly. I am hoping that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will get involved or maybe the Chinese," he said.

At present, the memorial is a small sign four miles west of the small coal-mining town of Ledo, which commemorates the start of The Road to Mandalay. The road is now impassable.

The Ministry of Defence said last night it would look into the possibility that the graves of British servicemen might be among those found by Mr Tada.

However, organisations representing British veterans who fought in Burma said they believed they had accounted for all the casualties.

Save
an extra
£50

on selected PCs
this weekend

Simply cut out this ad and take it to your nearest
Tiny Showroom. Call for address details.

0800 783 9813

Only one voucher per customer. It is to be used in conjunction
with other offers. Valid until 14th March 1999.

tiny

think big about your PC... think TINY

the perfectly smooth drive
a passive rear wheel drive
powered engine noise
comes with optional new
treachery of 1.8 litre
5 spoke alloy wheels
front fog lamps

the new m

- remote control double locking • rear
- centre arm rest • rear head restraint
- safeguard immobiliser • perimeter alarm



Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Change brings car sales slump

SALES of new cars fell by half last month compared with a year ago, according to figures published yesterday that highlighted the impact of the new bi-annual registration system. New car registrations last month totalled 84,040, a 52 per cent fall on the 177,133 sold in February 1998, said the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). Year-to-date registrations are 265,882, down 35 per cent.

The industry said the figures were no cause for panic as they reflected the launch of the new system of registration. British-built cars took 27.3 per cent of the market in February, down from a 32.4 per cent at the same time last year. Ford remained the biggest seller.

Reveal Servisair bids, says Amey



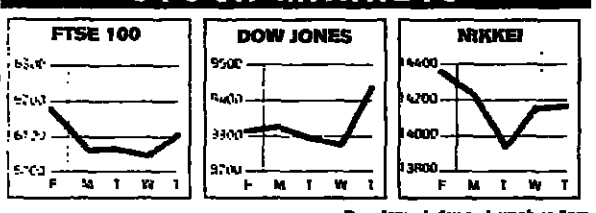
AMEY, the business services group mounting an £80m hostile bid for Servisair, yesterday called on the airline services company's management to come clean about the identity of alternative bidders. Brian Staples, Amey chief executive (pictured), said: "We think this board needs to get on with things and stop wasting shareholders' money on their defence. Plenty of time has gone by since our offer (on 22 January)."

Speculation about a rival to Amey's 200p-a-share cash bid has centred on Compass Partners. Servisair closed unchanged at 212p.

Profits fall at NZ media group

WILSON & HORTON, the New Zealand media group owned by Independent Newspapers, owners of *The Independent*, yesterday announced a 7.6 per cent drop in operating profits to NZ\$85m on flat sales of NZ\$438m. Cameron O'Reilly, Wilson & Horton chairman, said the results were encouraging given the depressed New Zealand advertising market in the second half of last year, adding that there were signs that lower interest rates had restored confidence to the New Zealand economy.

STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

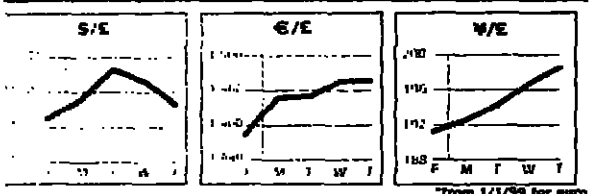
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5101.40	53.10	0.88	6319.80	4599.20	2.63
FTSE 250	5314.80	27.90	0.53	5970.90	4247.60	3.16
FTSE 350	2699.70	23.70	0.82	2978.70	2210.40	2.71
FTSE All Share	2890.10	23.21	0.80	3269.52	2143.53	2.75
FTSE SmallCap	2389.40	6.90	0.30	2793.80	1834.40	3.55
FTSE Real Estate	1250.70	1.70	0.14	1517.10	1046.20	4.42
FTSE AIM	832.10	2.20	0.27	1146.90	761.30	1.14
FTSE Europe 100	2793.53	35.44	1.29	3079.27	2018.15	2.14
FTSE Europe 300	1214.56	13.27	1.11	1332.07	880.63	2.00
FTSE Europe 500	3433.44	159.39	1.88	3967.96	2400.30	1.64
FTSE Europe 600	14183.45	13.09	0.09	17382.35	12182.90	1.00
FTSE Europe 700	9913.76	-3.84	-0.02	11926.16	5744.79	3.53
FTSE Europe 800	5678.72	-18.95	-0.40	6217.83	3833.71	1.85
FTSE Europe 900	1243.88	15.81	1.29	1383.91	923.32	1.28
FTSE Europe 1000	2799.27	34.07	1.50	2933.44	1957.09	0.29
FTSE Europe 1100	6253.80	73.46	1.19	7837.70	5320.90	1.70
FTSE Europe 1200	9430.22	275.00	3.00	12339.14	4575.69	6.56
FTSE Europe 1300	3282.96	-11.43	-0.35	3713.21	2695.72	2.16
FTSE Europe 1400	519.92	-2.24	-0.43	568.65	366.58	1.99
FTSE Europe 1500	4067.35	83.83	2.09	4404.94	2881.21	1.91
FTSE Europe 1600	35145.00	1000.00	2.93	39170.00	24175.00	1.16
FTSE Europe 1700	9834.30	126.70	1.31	10989.80	6869.90	1.77
FTSE Europe 1800	5303.58	-5.62	-0.11	5581.70	3732.57	1.55
FTSE Europe 1900	532.29	-2.20	-0.41	651.95	277.37	0.27
FTSE Europe 2000	2985.20	-4.60	-0.16	2948.70	2386.70	3.21

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year	30 year
UK 3 month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 6 month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 1 year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 2 year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 3 year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 5 year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 10 year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 15 year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 20 year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK 30 year	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Chg	% Chg	1 yr Ago
POUND	1.52	-0.02	-1.32	1.52
DOLLAR	1.48	-0.01	-0.68	1.48
EURO	1.66	-0.01	-0.60	1.66
YEN	123.61	+0.11	+0.09	123.61
FRANK	136.57	-0.12	-0.09	136.57
SCHEFF	6.0156	-0.0001	-0.00	6.0156
SWISS	1.9387	-0.0001	-0.00	1.9387
SPAIN	166.14	-0.01	-0.01	166.14
ITALY	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
GREECE	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
TURKEY	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
RUSSIA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
CHINA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
INDIA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
THAILAND	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
SINGAPORE	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
BRASIL	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
MEXICO	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
ARGENTINA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
CHILE	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
PERU	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
VENEZUELA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
COLOMBIA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
ECUADOR	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
PANAMA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
COSTA RICA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
HONDURAS	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
GUATEMALA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
EL SALVADOR	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
NICARAGUA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
PARAGUAY	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
URUGUAY	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
BOLIVIA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
PARAGUAY	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
URUGUAY	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57
BOLIVIA	136.57	-0.01	-0.01	136.57

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	% Chg	1 yr Ago
US GDP	115.40	3.00	2.64	115.40
EURO GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
UK GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
FRANK GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
SCHEFF GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
SWISS GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
SPAIN GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
ITALY GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
GREECE GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
TURKEY GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
RUSSIA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
CHINA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
INDIA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
THAILAND GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
SINGAPORE GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
BRASIL GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
MEXICO GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
ARGENTINA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
CHILE GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
PERU GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
VENEZUELA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
COLOMBIA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
ECUADOR GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
PANAMA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
COSTA RICA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
HONDURAS GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
GUATEMALA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
EL SALVADOR GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
NICARAGUA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
PARAGUAY GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
URUGUAY GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40
BOLIVIA GDP	163.40	2.40	1.47	163.40

www.bloomberg.com/uk

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Index	Close	Chg	% Chg	1 yr Ago
STOCKS	2.5091	-0.01	-0.39	2.5091
STOCKS (schilling)	19.78	-0.01	-0.51	19.78
STOCKS (franc)	58.13	-0.01	-0.17	58.13
STOCKS (yen)	2.3991	-0.01	-0.42	2.3991
STOCKS (pound)	0.8310	-0.01	-0.12	0.8310
STOCKS (dollar)	10.77	-0.01	-0.93	10.77
STOCKS (mark)	8.5850	-0.01	-0.12	8.5850
STOCKS (franc)	9.4481	-0.01	-0.11	9.4481
STOCKS (mark)	2.3271	-0.01	-0.43	2.3271
STOCKS (dollar)	484.35	-0.01	-0.02	484.35
STOCKS (pound)	12.10	-0.01	-0.83	12.10
STOCKS (yen)	1.1322	-0.01	-0.88	1.1322
STOCKS (franc)	61.57	-0.01	-0.16	61.57
STOCKS (mark)	6.0156	-0.01	-0.16	6.0156
STOCKS (dollar)	2800	-0.01	-0.36	2800
STOCKS (pound)	193.87	-0.01	-0.52	193.87
STOCKS (yen)	5.8078	-0.01	-0.17	5.8078
STOCKS (franc)	0.6114	-0.01	-0.16	0.6114

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

Royal & Sun to hand back another £750m

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

SHARES IN Royal & Sun Alliance jumped nearly 7 per cent yesterday after the insurance giant announced plans to return £750m - around 10 per cent of its capital - to shareholders through a special dividend of 48p a share.

The group also reported 1998 profits at the top end of City expectations, although 40 per cent down on the previous year. The payment, which will be accompanied by a 10-for-11

share consolidation, comes on top of the £1.25bn given back to shareholders last year.

Sir Patrick Gillam, the chairman, said, however, that the repayment was on condition that shareholders would be willing to stump up if the group needed the money to fund a deal.

"As we generate further surpluses we will return them to

shareholders. But we will not shrink from asking shareholders for capital for well defined uses," he said.

Bob Mendelsohn, Royal's chief executive, said that the process of merging the Royal and Sun Alliance businesses was now complete and the group was on the lookout for takeover and merger deals both at home and abroad.

"Consolidation is a fact of life and will be for some time to

come. I think we have some very good consolidation skills. It would be a shame to let these go to waste," he said.

Mr Mendelsohn said it would have been a good opportunity at the right price. "Our own analysis is that although we have some extra capital in the group we didn't have enough to do an all-cash bid."

Group profits for 1998 were down 40 per cent to £602m. The figure includes, for the first

time, £195m of investment gains, in line with changes in accounting practice right across the industry. Royal & Sun Alliance acknowledged that last year had been a disappointing year, although Mr Mendelsohn insisted that the group was not alone in being hit by a catalogue of disasters compounded by weak prices across the board.

He said that there were real signs that rates were starting to firm after years of decline.

Rolls to shed 2,000 jobs and trim supplier base

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero-engine maker, is to shed a further 2,000 jobs this year and streamline its supply base as part of an efficiency programme expected to boost profits by £70m.

The job cuts follow 2,000 redundancies last year and will take the workforce down to about 38,300. The number of suppliers is likely to decline from 500 to around 300.

News of renewed cost drive came as Rolls disclosed that it had contacted competition authorities in Brussels and Washington over a joint venture between its two US rivals to develop a new engine for the proposed Airbus super-jumbo.

Sir Ralph Robins, chairman, said Rolls had "put down a marker" with the Federal Trade Commission and the European Commission, expressing concern that the alliance between General Electric and Pratt & Whitney was not widened to other engine programmes. "We want to make sure they are not allowed to employ uncompetitive practices when they are bidding against us," he added.

GE and P&W are jointly developing an engine for the A3XX, the proposed Airbus 500-seat double-deck jet. It will compete with the Trent 900 engine Rolls has offered to develop.

Sir Ralph said Rolls took it as a compliment that its US rivals should need to combine forces to compete with Rolls. But Rolls itself will also require a significant number of risk and revenue-sharing partners to fund the development of the engine.

A quarter of the current Trent programme is funded by overseas partners. Last year the Trent tightened its stranglehold



Rolls-Royce chairman Sir Ralph Robins (left) and chief executive John Rose said the aero-engine group's order book would grow strongly this year. Nicola Kurtz

Wall Street applauds \$16bn deal between Dell and IBM

BY DAVID USBORNE
In New York

DRAWING APPLAUSE from Wall Street, International Business Machines (IBM) revealed yesterday that it had reached an agreement with Dell Computer to supply it with equipment and components. The deal should be worth \$16bn (£10bn) over seven years, making it the largest-ever struck in the information technology sector.

The agreement means initially that Dell will buy parts from IBM such as disk drives, memory chips and flat displays. Both companies stressed that in the longer term Texas-based Dell would have access to IBM's huge research division, with an annual budget of around \$5bn.

IBM is guaranteed a steady and voracious new customer and a significant revenue boost. Dell has emerged in recent years as the fastest-growing

maker of PCs in the world and the second-largest after Compaq. IBM shares rocketed in morning trading in New York yesterday rising \$9 1/2 to \$176 by midday. Shares in Dell had gained \$3 to \$83 1/2.

"They both benefit. Dell gets research and development expertise and IBM gets Dell as a huge customer," said Dan Riles, an analyst at Kaufman Brothers. "Dell is light in research and IBM is technology heavy."

Dell, America's biggest direct seller of PCs, has enjoyed three years of meteoric growth and share performance. Last month, however, the company reported that fourth-quarter earnings came in short of Wall Street expectations. Its quar-

terly sales rose by 38 per cent, below the 50 per cent achieved in the past two years. Dell has suffered as competitors, including Compaq, have joined in direct selling. Its corporate business division, selling network servers and memory banks, has also been wounded by rivals.

The company will still be free to buy parts from suppliers other than IBM.

Based outside New York, IBM has struggled for years to boost flagging PC sales and preserve profits as hardware prices have fallen. Chief executive Louis Gerstner has told analysts the company would single out components, computer services and software as areas that could help boost revenues.

Some analysts had expected Dell to enter into a computer services agreement with IBM.

Euro at new lows as rates are held

BY LEA PATERSON

THE EURO slumped to a new low against the dollar following the European Central Bank's decision to leave its key interest rate unchanged at 3 per cent.

Shortly after the decision was announced the euro fell below \$1.08, a new low. It also closed at a new low of 67.35p, and analysts warned that worries over economic prospects would continue to drive the European currency lower.

Europe slips up in the banana war

THE BANANA wars now raging between Europe and the US make it very tempting to wheel out the old high horse and climb aboard. How dare the perfunctory Americans put the innocent Scottish woolen industry and Britain's makers of scented candles out of business in an apparently ridiculous and petty dispute over whose bananas Europeans ought to buy?

It just so happens that the Latin American banana importer the Clinton Administration has chosen to throw its weight behind, Chiquita, is controlled by a company that has made hundreds of millions of dollars worth of political donations to both Democrats and Republicans. The politics of the pork barrel is threatening the livelihood of Caribbean and West African banana growers, to whom Europe has an obligation dating from colonial days.

As always, however, it is not quite as simple as that. The Americans have a point, for all the Chiquita influence. The EU, like the US, has an obligation to abide strictly by the rules of the World Trade Organisation. It was so influential in creating. Both Europe and America must walk their talk on free trade if they expect others to adhere to in-



OUTLOOK

ternational trading rules and dispute procedures too. The EU's initial response to the WTO finding that its banana import regime did discriminate against the Latin Americans was slow and grudging.

On the other hand, the US response to the latest WTO delay is equally unhelpful. It plays to the gallery of domestic politics. Both sides need their heads banging together. Without question, the prosperity of the post-war years has been fostered by the increasing liberalisation of trade. The US government has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to free trade principles as the best and fairest engine of world growth, de-

spite the occasional tactical setback for sordid political reasons.

The Europeans, too, bang the same drum, though admittedly not quite so enthusiastically. Why should either side want to threaten this prosperity over an issue as trivial as banana eating – a fruit, by the way, which neither region produces in any significant quantity?

Again, there is a subtext. Trade tensions always ratchet up when there are big imbalances, as there are now in spades. Strong US growth has resulted in a record trade deficit, while the feeble EU economic recovery has added to Europe's trade surplus.

While American policy-makers have, of necessity, adopted the view that it is now a good thing to have a huge current account deficit – it keeps inflation low, contributes to consumer choice and props up the world economy, runs the spiel – there is no evidence, except perhaps in "little ole Britain", of the Europeans adopting a similarly enlightened approach.

In other words, this trade dispute is the flip side of a coin which already has Americans lambasting the Europeans for failure to do anything worthwhile to stimulate their

sluggish economies. As if to remind us of this fact, the European Central Bank again left interest rates unchanged yesterday. It is unfortunate that Britain should arbitrarily be hit more than others in Europe by the nature of the US sanctions, but it is also true that while Fortress Europe remains so paralysed by inactivity, the Americans have the better of the argument.

Dwell times

HEATHROW CEASED to be an airport a long time ago. Instead it became a giant shopping mall with a runway attached. Gatwick has gone the same way, and a similar fate surely awaits the vast open spaces of Stansted, once the overspill of passengers and airlines from its sister airports lends it critical mass.

Now BAA, which calls itself an airport operator but has a retail business the size of Dixons, plans to do the same with Eurotunnel. Undaunted by the prospect of duty-free on the retail operations of the two Channel tunnel terminals at Folkestone and Calais for the next 15 years.

BAA has been attracted by what the retail wizards know as "dwell time". The vagaries of air traffic control and the check-in requirements of airlines mean that the average passenger at Terminal One has 50 minutes to kill before a flight. BAA would naturally prefer them to be eating at Harry Ramsden's, or even better shopping in the Harrods store, than reading a newspaper. So retailing and catering space is maximised at the expense of somewhere peaceful to sit down.

Holidaymakers on Le Shuttle are about to enjoy the same selling experience. BAA has discovered that their dwell time can be anything up to 60 minutes. At Calais the scope for emptying passengers' pockets is endless. The terminal itself is vast and even if duty-free is axed, duty-paid prices of beer and bacon on the French side of La Manche will remain 35 per cent below high street prices over here.

Folkestone is a slightly more tricky proposition, since it is a much smaller terminal. But BAA plans to enrich the retail mix to begin with and then creep outwards if the Kent county planners allow it. The result will be a useful boost to revenues – £100m mini-

mum even without duty-free, reckons BAA. This may even help to keep down Le Shuttle ticket prices.

Benchmarking

ENDLESS COLUMN inches have been penned over the last year on the tyranny of the benchmarks – not least on these pages. These musings were topped off this week by an excellent report, "Tomorrow's Giants", which alarmingly draws attention to the way indexation of investment is favouring a small group of well-capitalised, global, mega-companies. The authors, Craig Pickering, a former Treasury civil servant, and Brian Basham, a public relations consultant, describe this process as a type of collective mania, which of course it is.

Even active fund managers have felt obliged to follow what Tony Dye of Phillips and Drew calls "closet indexation". Positions held by many active fund managers have been greatly narrowed relative to the benchmark, if only because this seems to be the only way of keeping up with the overly indexed passive funds. Almost everyone is

indexing in some shape or form. Alone among the big UK fund managers, Phillips and Drew has remained entirely loyal to its active investment principles, and it has paid a heavy price in terms of lost business for doing so.

It is just possible, however, that last year was the high water mark of the swing to passive investment. Most active fund managers are concerned in the extreme at the lack of value to be had at the top end of the market. They are sceptical about the merits of indexation, even though they have been driven to it out of necessity. There's been a massive correction and rebound in between, but in essence the FTSE 100 share index has gone nowhere for six months now, which is powerfully indicative of growing alarm about overvalued larger stocks.

As yet, there is little evidence of attention switching back to the small cap sector, but it will come. Smaller companies are one of the few areas of the market where there is still good value to be had. As the active fund managers come back into the smaller-company sector, that will create its own benchmarks, and the passive funds will have to follow suit.

East Midlands jobs and name disappear in PowerGen revamp

POWERGEN has embarked on a major overhaul of East Midlands Electricity, the regional supply company it bought last year, which is expected to result in several hundred job losses and the disappearance of the East Midlands name.

The distribution arm of East Midlands, which operates the local network of wires, is being slimmed down from 23 separate sites into one central headquarters and five regional centres.

PowerGen did not say how many jobs were likely. Analysts estimate that the headcount could be reduced by 300,

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

or 10 per cent of the workforce.

There will be a major re-branding exercise to replace the East Midlands name with PowerGen's brand, involving repainting vans and reprinting bills and stationery.

News of the overhaul came as PowerGen said that the sale of its two coal-fired stations, Fiddler's Ferry and Ferrybridge, would reduce profits by £60m a year.

The reduction will be offset exactly by lower gas costs after the renegotiation of supply con-

tracts for its Connor's Quay gas-fired plant in North Wales.

PowerGen shares slipped by 2.5 per cent to 867.5p as the group said that the mild weather and lower power station payments helped reduce profits in the nine months to 3 January from £376m to £292m. This was despite an £87m contribution from East Midlands. In December alone the reduction in generating profits was £40m, and in January and February the impact was about £20m a month.

The mild weather has reduced demand, creating a high level of plant availability and

reducing the size of the capacity payments generators earn.

Fiddler's Ferry and Ferrybridge made operating profits of £143m in the financial year to last April, and PowerGen expects the sale of the stations to raise between £1bn and £1.5bn. The sale will reduce PowerGen's share of the generating market to 14 per cent.

Ed Wallis, chairman, said the group aimed to increase its overseas generating portfolio from 8,000 megawatts to 10,000 megawatts, and is interested in buying existing power stations in Australia, Thailand, India and China.



Ed Wallis: Seeking opportunities to expand overseas

Hillsdown dashes investors' hopes

HILLSDOWN, the food group best known for the Typhoo tea brand, yesterday dashed investors' hopes of a share buy-back or special dividend after market conditions forced it to scrap plans to sell its furniture and potato divisions, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

"It seems unlikely, in current market conditions, that we will be able to achieve a major disposal, which would be a necessary requirement before we would recommend a return of cash to shareholders," said Michael Teacher, Hillsdown chief executive.

The news effectively stalls Hillsdown's restructuring,

which began last year when the company spun off housebuilder Fairview and the Terranova chilled foods business.

Meanwhile Sir John Nott, the former defence secretary, announced that he would be retiring as chairman after the annual meeting in May. He will be replaced by Peter Jacobs, the former chief executive of British Sugar and Bupa.

In the year to December Hillsdown reported a fall in operating profits from continuing activities to £80.2m from £100.5m. Trading profits in the core grocery business rose 4 per cent to £57.4m. The shares closed up 3.5p at 73.5p.

THE INDEPENDENT

Save up to 50% on your holiday

TO BOOK
YOUR DISCOUNTED
HOLIDAY CALL
0990 423423
OPENING HOURS
Mon-Fri 0900 - 2100
Sat 0900-1800
Sun 1000-1700

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have teamed up with Travelworld Direct to provide readers with massive discounts on a range of holidays. You can save up to 50 per cent off the brochure prices on a fabulous selection of summer and winter holidays, tours, cruises and short breaks from a wide range of brochures that will be featured today and over the weekend.

10% OFF

Discover the wonder of Italy with Italian Life and save 10% when you book your holiday. The widest range of fabulous and individual villas in fabulous locations throughout Tuscany, Umbria, the Roman and Venetian countryside and Sicily. Travel options include self-drive, fly-drive and train.

10% OFF

From inexpensive charter arrangements to luxury holidays and tours, a Hayes & Jarvis holiday represents outstanding value for money. From cruising to scuba diving, weddings to tailor-made holidays – Hayes & Jarvis can arrange it all for you. From Australia to Zimbabwe the choice of destinations is endless.

10% OFF

A collection of top quality hotels and self-catering options throughout the Mediterranean and North Africa. Including short breaks, departures from regional airports, tailor-made packages, fly cruise, single savers and great reductions for children.

10% OFF

Holidays made for you

If it's Florida, the Caribbean, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the Canaries, Malta, mainland Spain or the Balearics then choose Unijet and save 10%. There are hundreds of destinations to choose from, plus a wide choice of accommodation. If it's villas with pools, all inclusive holidays, self-catering or cruising – Unijet have it.

10% OFF

City of light, of life and of culture. The vibrancy of the Champs Elysees and sheer scale of the awe inspiring Eiffel Tower. The aroma of fresh croissants in a pavement cafe, the colourful artists in Montmartre. At night the city adds further strings to its bow. Glamorous, world famous cabarets and spectacles. The romance of a dinner cruise on the Seine, meals to linger over, this is unmistakably Paris.

20% OFF

Choose any destination to the Caribbean with British Airways Holidays. There's a good selection of islands from Barbados to the Caymans with carefully selected hotels of varying grades and ambience, with a choice of cruises. This offer is available for travel 25 June 99 - 31 October 99. Minimum two nights sharing, minimum seven night duration.

Please note: The discount offered by Cadogan is 10%, not 15% as stated in The Independent on 4 March 1999.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY

To take advantage of this offer you need to choose your holiday from any of the brochures featured. You should then call the Travelworld Direct reservation line on 0990 423423. All holidays must be confirmed between Saturday 27th February and Sunday 14th March and you will be required to pay a deposit which will be deducted from your final invoice. The balance of your payment is due 10 weeks before your departure. For bookings made within 10 weeks of departure, payment in full, less the discount, is required at the time of booking. You can use a Switch or Delta debit card, or credit card. Credit-card payments will incur a 1.5% handling charge.

HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR DISCOUNT

To qualify for the appropriate discount you must submit four numbered tokens from either *The Independent* or *The Independent on Sunday*, with the booking validation form below. A total of nine tokens will be printed between Saturday 27th February and Sunday 7th March 1999. Your tokens and booking validation form must arrive with Travelworld Direct by Sunday 14th March 1999. If Travelworld Direct do not receive your tokens, you will be sent a revised invoice for the full price of your holiday. Tickets and travel documents will normally be supplied 7 to 10 days before departure. Please see the full terms and conditions for this offer that appear at the bottom of this page.

APPLICATION FORM (INCLUDE 4 TOKENS)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Booking Ref. no.: _____

Send to: The Independent Promotion, Riverside House, Aspley Marina, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield, HD1 3AF

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Offer applies to new bookings only confirmed between 27th February 99 and 14th March 99. 2. Participating tour operators terms & conditions of booking apply. 3. The offer featured cannot be combined with any other promotional offer available at time of booking unless stated otherwise. 4. A handling charge of 1.5% applies to payments by credit card. 5. Travelworld reserve the right to withdraw any discount offer without notice. 6. Not available in Republic of Ireland. 7. All holidays are subject to availability. 8. Should you cancel your holiday the applicable discount becomes invalid. 9. Applicants must be over 18. 10. No photocopied tokens. 11. This promotion has been organised by Travelworld Direct, part of The Travelworld Group, ASTA A7462

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

US Stocks				Foreign Stocks				Commodities					
NYSE	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%	NYSE	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	%
57.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
58.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
59.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
60.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
61.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
62.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
63.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
64.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
65.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
66.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
67.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
68.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
69.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
70.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
71.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
72.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
73.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
74.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
75.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
76.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
77.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
78.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
79.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
80.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
81.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
82.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
83.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
84.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
85.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
86.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
87.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
88.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
89.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
90.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
91.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
92.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
93.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
94.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
95.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
96.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
97.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
98.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
99.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
100.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
101.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
102.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
103.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
104.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
105.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
106.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
107.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
108.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
109.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
110.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
111.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
112.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
113.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
114.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
115.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
116.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
117.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
118.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
119.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
120.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
121.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
122.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
123.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
124.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
125.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
126.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
127.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
128.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
129.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
130.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
131.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
132.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
133.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
134.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
135.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
136.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
137.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
138.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
139.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
140.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
141.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
142.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
143.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
144.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
145.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
146.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
147.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
148.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
149.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
150.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
151.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
152.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
153.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
154.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
155.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
156.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
157.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
158.880	49	232	Chrysler	27.25	1.5	5.8	52	107	Sharia	24.25	0.3	23	27.2
159.880	49	232	Chrysler										

Misys and RMC hit by last-minute deals

THE SPECTRE of rogue trades returned to haunt the stock market yesterday, with the software group Misys and the building materials giant RMC hit by some strange deals.

The two groups ended up as the two biggest fallers in the FTSE-250 due to a number of last-minute deals executed below the going price.

The trades are believed to have been part of a big programme order from a large institution and were not a deliberate attempt to manipulate the closing price.

However, they could have a major impact on Misys' chances to return to the FTSE-100. The information technology company, valued at over £3.6bn, is a strong candidate to be included in the top index after next week's reshuffle.

However, yesterday's 4 per cent-plus slump could put paid to Misys' dreams of blue-

HENRY COOKE, a Manchester-based stockbroker, yesterday put an end to its 113-year long history as an independent company. The broker, founded in 1886, was bought for £20m by Brown, Shipley, the London subsidiary of Credit Bank of Luxembourg. The deal will see the withdrawal of Henry Cooke from Ofex. The firm was one of the original constituents of the unregulated market and yesterday bid farewell at 130p, unchanged on the day.

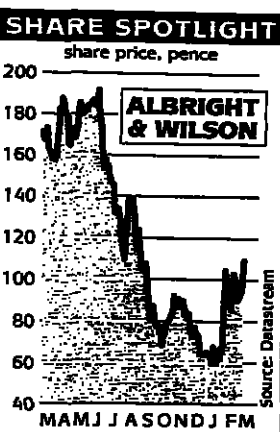
chip glory. The stock had been bobbing along at around 630p for most of the day when two trades, or a few thousands shares, at 600p were pushed through in the four minutes before the closing bell.

The downward effect of the rogue-ish deals was somewhat cushioned by the recently introduced Stock Exchange rules on closing prices. Under the new set-up, the authorities calculate the final price by averaging out the deals executed in the last 10 minutes. But Misys still lost 26.25p to 617.5p.

To add insult to injury, the software group admitted it had made a mistake in an an-



FRANCESCO GUERRERA



ouncement on a share sale by the executive chairman, Kevin Lomas.

He was previously reported as having netted £120m on the sale, while the real profit is just £12m. The reason? Misys mistakenly said that Mr Lomas had sold stock for £805.77 instead of 605.77p.

Back to the suspect deals - RMC crumbled 28p to 705.5p after several trades at 720p-880p, well below the 725p going price.

The rest of the market had a solid session with the FTSE 100 finishing 53.1 points higher at 6101.4. Leading stocks were emboldened by a roaring opening on Wall Street, which was showing a triple-digit advance when London closed.

The undercard continued its winning run, with the FTSE 250 closing up 27.9 to 5314.8 and the small cap ending 6.9 higher at 2289.4.

The oil stocks were the stars of the session. After much battering and bruising at the hands of the depressed oil price, the drillers took comfort by the overnight rise in the Brent oil price.

There is a growing feeling

that after months in the doldrums, the price could rally as producers contemplate price cuts. Shell, one of longest-suffering oil stocks, rose 18.75p to 349.5p. Its goliath rival BP Amoco was close behind, surging 45p to 902, as Lehman selected as its top oil pick for 1999.

The exploration companies were also buoyant, as renewed bid speculation mixed with the oil price optimism. British Borneo, said to be stalked by a US predator, rose 10p to 115p. Premier Oil put on 12.5p to 117.5p amid vague takeover talk and a Williams de Broe "buy" advice.

Enterprise drilled a 16.25p advance to 288p, supported by a Henderson Crosthwaite note, while Lasso surged 7p to 129.75p. The two are in merger talks and developments are expected next week.

JXK Oil & Gas completed the party with a 1.75p rise to 8.5p on hopes that the Swiss group National Petroleum might increase its stake from its current 20.2 per cent.

Bid whispers spurred the chemical minnow Albright & Wilson to a 14p rise to 109p. There is talk of an imminent offer at 125p-130p a share from a foreign bidder. Rhodia, FMC, Solutia and a Moroccan company, OCE were all mentioned.

Among the blue chips, the insurer Royal & Sun Alliance shone with a 36.75p increase to 587.75p after good results and a £750m cash return pledge.

Williams, the security and fire group, burnt 16.75p to 348.5p due to disappointing results and worries over a possible exit from the FTSE 100.

Powergen's results lacked energy and the generator's shares dipped 19.5p to 787.5p, dragging down National Power, 15.5p lower at 487p, and Scottish Power, 18.5p worse off at 581.5p.

Dealers turned off BskyB amid rumours that it was bidding "adieu" to talks with the French rival Canal Plus. The satellite television operator shares crashed 13.5p to 550.5p.

Rolls-Royce's figures were good but not brilliant, sending the stock down 2.75p to 272.25p. Some houses

advised a switch into British Aerospace, up 4p to 398.5p, amid renewed talk of a defence link-up with Thomson, the French aerospace group.

The tiddlers risers' table was dominated by Tadpole Technology, up 4p to 13.75p. The electronic equipment maker is set to launch a new product and some major contracts could be on the way.

Aegis attracted institutional interest following its recent results. The media agency put on 1.25p to 130.5p on massive volume of 14.4 million.

Infobank, an e-commerce company, soared 3.5p to 70.5p after securing a lucrative internet deal with the Stationery Office.

Athlone Extrusions, an Irish maker of chemical materials for the car and construction industry, shed 5.5p to 50p after warning of lower profits in the first half.

DELTRON ELECTRONICS, unchanged at 100p yesterday, will today receive a filip from one of its directors. Francois Feldman was set to receive an £800,000 cash payout following the electronic equipment group's purchase of a French rival, EUROINDUSTRIE. However, he is now expected to take only £538,000 in cash and the remaining £262,000 in Deltronics shares to take advantage of the company's depressed share price.

Voss Net, a member of the buoyant Internet band, logged in an 8p rise to 76p after promising to provide free online access to charities.

Recognition Systems Group rose 3p to 17.5p after announcing three important contracts for its customer relationship management.

Durlacher, the broker, soared 25p to 950p, amid mounting bid speculation. Computerland, the computer group, continued to reel from its recent profit warning, shedding 11.5p to 89p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.14 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 79,413
GLTS INDEX: 112.01 +0.24

Williams plans to raise £400m from disposals

By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

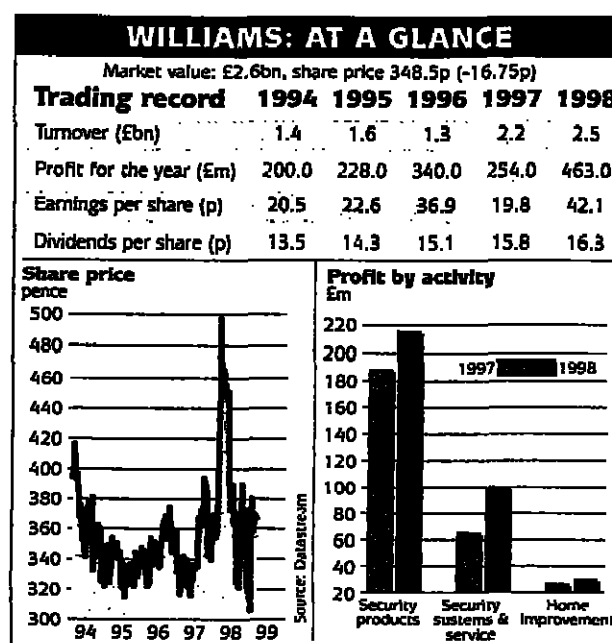
WILLIAMS, the former conglomerate that is reinventing itself as a more focused security and fire services group, is planning to raise a further £400m from disposals as it completes its transformation.

It will float its Robbialac paint business in Portugal later this year with an expected valuation of around £100m. It will also sell its remaining US paints businesses, which have a value of £300m. ICI is tipped as a possible buyer.

The proceeds are expected to be used to fund further acquisitions, principally in fire and security services. The move is part of a plan by Williams' chief executive, Roger Carr, to derive 60 per cent of group sales from services as opposed to the current 38 per cent.

Services, which includes the provision of security guards and closed-circuit television equipment, is growing sales at more than 10 per cent with profit up by 16 per cent in the last year. The company hopes the shift will trigger a gradual re-rating of the stock.

The comments came as Williams unveiled underlying profits of £302m compared with



£285m in the previous year. However, the group's shares fell 16.75p to 348.5p with some analysts pointing to a cash outflow.

Mr Carr feels Williams is well on the way to sloughing off the old-conglomerate tag. Unfortunately the City does not appear to agree. The shares have underperformed the market by 48 per cent in the last five years, with earnings diluted by a stream of high profile dis-

posals such as Polyfilla and Cuprinol. The stock also looks likely to be relegated from the FTSE 100 index next week, prompting selling by tracker funds.

The company is clearly disappointed by its rating compared with other support services groups like Rentokil and Hays. The difference is that those companies have much better records, built up

over several years of outperformance.

Williams ought to be a better performing business than it is. It has terrific brands such as Chubb, for which it paid £1.7bn in 1997. The group has fulfilled its target of improving profits by £40m since the deal.

The company is confident it can maintain organic growth rates of 10 per cent, particularly in its services business. Mr Carr has also signalled a slight improvement in the economic outlook in its major markets. Some analysts attribute the sluggish growth to the group's history of buying and selling businesses in its conglomerate days rather than investing in the building of brands.

The bulls of Williams believe management's strategy is right and that a re-rating may be not far away. However, even they suggest a further year or two of acquisitions may be needed before the services businesses reach critical mass.

On Pannure Gordon's up-graded current-year profit forecast of £323m, the shares trade on a forward multiple of 13. That is not expensive, though short-term factors such as the relegation from the FTSE 100 will weigh against the stock. But longer-term the outlook is reasonably promising.

Vickers looks for marine alliances

By Michael Harrison
Business Editor

THE ENGINEERING group Vickers yesterday laid out plans to expand its marine division further following the £304m acquisition of the Norwegian group Ulstein last year.

Marine sales will account for half of Vickers' £1bn turnover this year, now that it has sold off Rolls-Royce and Cosworth and closed its Leeds tank factory.

But Baron Byssse, the Belgian chief executive of Vickers, said it aimed to exploit its world leadership in marine propulsion to grow the business through al-

liances and bolt-on acquisitions.

"We have had approaches from other marine companies interested in joining with us and you may well see joint ventures in the near future with major global engineering companies," he said.

Vickers was also examining the scope for widening its marine activities by acquiring smaller family-owned businesses in related fields, he added.

He was speaking as Vickers announced a jump in pre-tax profits last year from £19m to £157m, swollen by net proceeds from the sale of Rolls and Cosworth to Volkswagen of Germany. Operating profit before exceptional items fell from £76m to £42m after restructuring charges.

Defence sales are expected to fall from £344m last year to around £250m this year as deliveries of Challenger II tanks to the Ministry of Defence run down. But Vickers remains

hopeful of winning a £1.5bn tank order from Greece and is currently working on a £100m order for 20 tanks from Oman. Vickers also hopes to win a £100m MoD order for a smaller tank, known as the Future Engineer Tank, towards the end of this year.

The group also hopes to forge a joint venture with the French tank manufacturer Giat by the end of this year. The two groups signed a memorandum of understanding in January but they are studying a wider alliance.

Crystal Palace picks Buchler

THE MAN trying to rescue Crystal Palace from the jaws of financial collapse is no stranger to troubled football clubs. David Buchler of Buchler Phillips, who has been asked by Palace's board to come in as administrator, first practised his corporate rescue skills at Harrow and Wealdstone Football Club in the early 1990s.

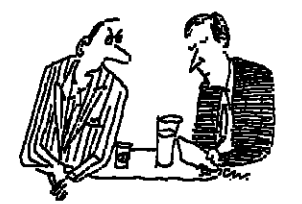
After putting the club's finances on an even keel he was called in by Tottenham Hotspur, a rather bigger club. This was during the Irving Scholar era, and Mr Buchler made great friends with manager Terry Venables in the process. Mr Buchler even joined the Spurs board before Alan Sugar bought into the club and got rid of all three of them.

The indefatigable Mr Buchler then helped sort out the finances at Barnet, even buying into the north London club himself before selling it on (successfully).

More recently, Buchler Phillips has been helping out at Millwall, and its Birmingham office has even turned to the game with the odd-shaped ball. Partner John Kelly is sorting out the books of Hull Kingston Rovers, the rugby league club.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



Mirror tells all

I CAN exclusively reveal that the new name for Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) is to be "William Tell plc".

At a meeting for City analysts yesterday, John Allwood, MGN's chief executive, delivered his results presentation to a packed room. Someone asked whether he'd had any more thoughts on a new name for the company, following rumours a month ago of a possible change.

Just as Mr Allwood was about to answer, a mobile phone belonging to Richard Dale, media analyst at Salomon Smith Barney (coincidentally brokers to Trinity, one of the Mirror bidders), rang. It was one of those that plays a tune, in this case Rossini's William Tell overture.

Everyone fell about. Mr Allwood grinned and pronounced: "There you have it. The new name will be William Tell."

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest				
Long Gilt	Mar-99	114.93	115.13	114.65	1941.00	11039.00			
5 Yr Gilt	Mar-99	107.62				63.00			
German Bund	Mar-99	112.29							
Italian Bond	Mar-99	111.67	112.18	111.65	4082.00	13882.00			
Japan Govt Bd	Mar-99	133.72	133.77	133.30	2018.00				
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-99	94.53	94.54	94.51	18838.00	166310.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	94.72	94.77	94.69	40948.00	190027.00			
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.91	96.94	96.88	60310.00	146331.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	96.85	96.95	96.83	17711.00	64381.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	96.86	96.88	96.85	77050.00	151044.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	96.89	96.91	96.89	2.00				
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	96.86	96.88	96.83	10825.00	60379.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	96.85	96.86	96.82	23678.00	77045.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	96.82	96.85	96.82	1144.00	11825.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	96.95				107028.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	96.96	96.95	96.93	897.00	107072.00			
3 Mth Euro Sto	Mar-99	6100.00	6125.00	6072.00	41505.00	156739.00			

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION									
Series	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call
6050	86	25	182	25	172	265	236	339	321
6100	65	23	212	24	154	284	234	367	1
6150	48	24	248	28	132	324	111	393	274
6200	35	23	286	25	109	353	189	421	1

ENERGY AT 3.00PM									
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest				
Brent Crude (\$/barrel)	Mar-99	105.23	105.23	105.23	105.23				
WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	Mar-99	105.23	105.23	105.23	105.23				
Gas (\$/MMBtu)	Mar-99	105.23	105.23	105.23	105.23				
Coal (\$/tonne)	Mar-99	105.23	105.23	105.23	105.23				

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES									
Index	1970=100	1980=100	1990=100	1995=100	1998=100	1999=100	1999=100	1999=100	1999=100
Oil	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Gold	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Silver	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Copper	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 month	Euro
UK	1.0000				0.6229	0.6232	0.6234	0.6723	
Australia	2.5723	2.5711	2.5703		1.0022	1.0022	1.0024	1.7294	
Canada					0.6022	0.6022	0.6022	0.6022	1.7260
France									
Germany									
Italy									
Japan									
Netherlands									

SPORT

Super League: New season opens with a whimper rather than a bang as Hull face up to harsh reality

Wigan ready for a fresh start

BY DAVE HADFIELD

IF YOU were looking for evidence that Super League, for all its buoyant mood at the moment, still doesn't get everything right, you would be tempted to look no further than tonight's opening fixture.

Between them, Super League and Sky have chosen to showcase the delights ahead with an unbalanced match between a very good, if currently rather depressed side, and a very poor one. On top of that, it is to be played on a mud-heap. Welcome to the brave new world.

Hull could yet surprise everyone at Wigan tonight. Their captain, Karl Harrison, fresh from surprising everyone at Halifax last season, insists they will. But the likelihood of even a depleted Wigan side running - or perhaps swimming - riot shows what remains to be done before the competition's full potential is realised.

The Sheffield Eagles coach, John Kear, said yesterday that Super League will deserve to be counted as an unqualified success five years from now if the team running second can be beaten by the one next to bottom. Since that is roughly where Wigan and Hull are expected to finish this year, tonight is a good indicator.

"I know everyone is expecting us to just turn up and roll over," says Harrison. "But that's not the way we look at it. We see it as a really good challenge. And we're a big side; probably the worse the conditions are, the better it suits us."

Harrison's back injury makes him, along with another new signing, Matt Culland, a minor doubt for tonight. Wigan are without Simon Haughton, who has torn a hamstring in training, as well as Denis Betts and Tony Smith, but a churned-up Central Park surface could still be Hull's best ally.

With Wigan due to move out at the end of the summer, there is little incentive to spend money on the ground. Drains appear to be blocked, so a mis-match on a swamp is the image with which Super League IV will open.

It is a season that deserves a better kick-off - one in which Wigan's captain, Andy Farrell, knows that they face a formidable task if they are to hang on to the title they won at the inaugural Grand Final at Old Trafford last year.



Wigan captain Andy Farrell knows his team must work hard to hang on to the title they won at the inaugural Grand Final last year

Varley Picture Agency

They have already succumbed to the wrath of fierce rivals Leeds, their most serious challengers during the last season, in the Cup. "We were pissed off at the time, but we had no excuses, because Leeds were by far the better side on the day," Farrell says.

"It left us with a couple of weeks to sort our problems out and I feel we've done that."

It has not been the easiest of close seasons for Farrell himself. Already fuming at Great Britain's

Test series defeat by New Zealand, he found that he needed an operation on the hip that hampered him through those matches.

The immediate build-up to the beginning of the new season has been dominated by the overdue arrival this week of his third child, Gracie. It has not been easy to concentrate on Hull.

"The first game of the season is always going to be a difficult one, because no side has got any form on the board," he says. "We've got a

very hard start to the season and, after that Cup-tie at Leeds, we've only got the one remaining trophy to play for."

One thing that particular defeat showed up was the relative lack of depth in Wigan's squad this year. "But that's something that can work in our favour. When you've got a big squad, you've got players whinging at training. If we can keep healthy, we'll benefit from having the same squad playing together all the time."

"There are 30 games this time and it's how teams cope with it mentally that will decide things. If you can get yourself up for every game, half the battle's won."

Wigan's ability to raise themselves even for games that everyone expects them to win gets its first test tonight. Harrison, back from permitting, promises that Hull will meet their side of the bargain.

Apart from his own durability, Hull have four ex-Wigan players in their squad, in Craig Murdoch,

Steve Barrow, Stephen Holgate and Martin Hall.

Those players in particular will not want to contemplate humiliation on their old home ground on the opening night of the season.

"We're a long way from being at our best," says the Wigan coach, John Monie. "We'll settle for stumbling to a win."

For the sake of setting the right tone for 1999, Super League needs Hull to prevent that stumble becoming a cake-walk.

Kear in call for draft system

THE SHEFFIELD Eagles' coach, John Kear, has called for a draft system, a ban on mid-season transfers and a phasing-out of Australian coaches, writes Dave Hadfield.

Kear, who led the Eagles to the Challenge Cup last year, has become the first man to be asked to contribute a "viewpoint" chapter to the Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook, which was published yesterday.

At the launch in Leeds, Kear said that Super League needed to become a more evenly balanced competition. "When a player comes off contract, the team in bottom spot should have first call on him," he said. "That would immediately spread the talent in Super League."

Kear also argued that clubs hiring a foreign coach should have to use one of the places on their overseas quota. "In an ideal world, I would really enjoy a situation where all head coaches and support staff were true Brits," he said.

Only one of Kear's Sheffield players, who begin their campaign at Bradford on Sunday, has made the traditional Coaches' Select XII in the book - the Great Britain prop forward, Dale Laughton.

Not surprisingly, Grand Finalists Wigan and Leeds dominate the selection, with five and four players respectively.

Matt Crowther, the Sheffield winger who has not played since badly injuring his knee last May, will play in the reserve side against Bradford tonight. Kear will then decide whether to include him in the first team squad for Sunday.

Castleford are to star in a documentary film being made to mark the millennium. The film, *Turning the Tiger*, is to feature the club's long-serving prop forward, Dean Sampson, and is expected to be premiered on a giant screen at the Wheldon Road ground before a televised match.

Wakefield Trinity, Castleford's opponents in their opening match of the season on Sunday, have been boosted by the news that their captain and former Cas stand-off, Tony Kemp, will be fit to play.

TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE TO SUPER LEAGUE

GATESHEAD THUNDER
Coach: Shaun McRae.
Many of Gateshead's names mean little in this country, but this is a thoroughly well-constructed squad. The veteran Kerrod Walters and up-and-coming scrum-half Willie Peters are key men if they produce the goods. The Thunder could make the top five.
In: A hand-picked and largely Australian squad in which the leading names are: David (Adelaide), Brian Carney (Dublin Blues), Steve Collins (Featherstone), Matt Daylight (Adelaide), Luke Felch (St George), Bruce Green (Brisbane), Tony Grimsdell (Canterbury), Ian Harrow (Parramatta), Andrew Nick (Adelaide), Danny Lee (Cronulla), Adam Maher (Rochdale), David Madsen (Canterbury), Willie Peters (South Sydney), Will Robinson (Warrington), Ben Sammut (Cronulla), Craig Simcoe (Warrington), Kerrod Walters (Adelaide), Craig Wilson (Warrington).
Prediction: 5th.

ST HELENS
Coach: Eilery Hanley (new).
Last season: 4th.
Even after three years with Shaun McRae, licentious Saints mixing it all through - in the shape of new coach Eilery Hanley - presents a dark and curious. They might be neither as bad nor good as their fluctuations have made them in the past, but just a lot more consistent.
In: Paul Adamson (Parramatta), Kevin Iro (Auckland), Feredi Tutuila (Halifax).
Out: Brett Goldsack (Wigan), Karl Hammond (London), Ian Pickavance (Huddersfield), Damien Smith (released).
Prediction: 4th.

WAKEFIELD TRINITY
Coach: Andy Kelly.
Last season: 1st (First Div).
Wakefield Trinity have at least recognised the need to rebuild even if they are to be competitive. They have signed better players, but might be a worse team in the short run. Even in the longer term and with a bright young coach at the helm, it looks an uphill struggle.
In: A virtual new team, including: Adrian Brunker (St George), Kevin Crowthers (Bradford), Andy Hoggson (Bradford), Tony Kemp (Leeds), Willie Poching (Hunslet), Ian Talbot (Wigan), Glen Tomlinson (Hull).
Out: Last year's team.
Prediction: 14th.

HALIFAX BLUE SOX
Coach: John Pendlebury.
Last season: 3rd.
The surprising success of Halifax last season was built on fantastic team spirit, but the departure of the man who typified that, Karl Harrison, was atrociously handled. Even if Guyan can clinch plays just as well as last year, it is hard to imagine them doing it again, but it was hard to imagine it last time as well.
In: Paul Broadbent (Sheffield), Andy Craig (Swinton), Graham Holroyd (Leeds), Nick Pinkney (Sheffield).
Out: Simon Baldwin (Sheffield), John Bentley (Huddersfield), Craig Dean (Leigh), Karl Harrison (Hull), Dale Power (Sheffield), Feredi Tutuila (St Helens).
Prediction: 8th.

BRADFORD BULLS
Coach: Matthew Elliott.
Last season: 5th.
After their major disappointment of last season, when they became predictable and all too beatable, Bradford have gone for the high risk strategy of pairing up the Paul brothers in the most naturally gifted midfield in the game. How well it works is the most intriguing question of the season.
Major signings: David Boyle (Canberra), Scott Maylor (Salford), Henry Paul (Wigan), Lee Radford (Hull), Michael Withers (Barnham), Nick Zisti (Cronulla).
Major outgoing: Graeme Bradley (retired), Matt Culland (Hull), Abi Ekoku (retired), Nathan Graham (Dewsbury), Simon Knox (Warrington), Paul Medley (Dewsbury), Tahi Rehana (released).
Prediction: 3rd.

WARRINGTON WOLVES
Coach: Darryl Van de Velde.
Last season: 10th.
A couple of quality signings and the galvanising off-field presence of new chief executive, Peter Deskin, promise an interesting season at Warrington. There will be an improvement, but don't expect it to be too dramatic in the first season of the new regime.
In: Simon Gillies (Canterbury), Alan Hume (Hull), Dean Hanger (Huddersfield).
Out: Adam Doyle (released), Mike Eager (Castleford), Brendon Tutu (Featherstone).
Prediction: 9th.

CASTLEFORD TIGERS
Coach: Stuart Raper.
Last season: 6th.
Cas finished strongly last season and if their new-coming, notably James Pickering and Aaron Raper, stay healthy they could improve on last season's position and make the play-offs. Danny Orr should continue to develop into a top-class stand-off, but they may finally lack the depth.
In: Michael Eager (Warrington), Dale Price (North Queensland), James Pickering (Sydney City), Aaron Raper (Parramatta), Darren Rogers (Salford).
Out: David Chapman (released), Jason Critchley (Widnes), Mike Ford (Barnley), Richard Midfield (released), Barrie-John Mather (Sale RU), Richard Russell (Barnley), Andrew Schick (Keighley), Michael Smith (Hull).
Prediction: 7th.

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS
Coach: Malcolm Reilly (new).
Last season: 12th and last.
The most significant change is the arrival of Reilly, who will give them the determination they sometimes lacked last year. The word is that Bobbie Goulding is responding well and a fit Nigel Wright would be a huge bonus.
In: John Bentley (Halifax), David Broughman (Adelaide), Jim Leith (St George), Ian Adams (St Helens), Andrew Tanga-foa (St George), Nick Wright (Wigan).
Out: Adrian Baine (Oldham), Jamie Field (Leeds), Dean Hanger (Warrington), Chris Orr (released), Jeff Wittenburg (released).
Prediction: 12th.

HULL SHARKS
Coach: Peter Walsh.
Last season: 9th.
Things just don't seem right at The Boulevard, with some dismal pre-season form already ringing alarm bells. Under the circumstances, the last thing they need is the opening right spotlight at a smarting Wigan. A humiliating defeat could see panic buttons pressed.
In: Steve Barrow (Wigan), Matt Culland (Bradford), Karl Harrison (Halifax), Stephen Holgate (Wigan), Andrew Purcell (Warrington), Robert Roberts (Keighley).
Out: Brad Hepl (released), Alan Hume (Warrington), Mark Johnson (Salford), Mike O'Shea (Featherstone), Lee Radford (Bradford), David Stephenson (Rochdale), Jason Tenna (Newcastle), Glen Tomlinson (Wakefield).
Prediction: 13th.

WIGAN WARRIORS
Coach: John Monie.
Last season: 1st.
Wigan have already paid the penalty in the Challenge Cup for going into the season with a squad that looks a little thin in crucial areas. They still have more generally well-class players than anyone, but there might be a real on the block with more depth and more hunger this time.
In: Greg Florimo (N Sydney), Brett Goldsack (St Helens), Mark Heber (N Sydney).
Out: Steve Barrow (Hull), Mark Ball (retired), Stephen Holgate (Hull), Robbie McCormack (retired), Henry Paul (Bradford), Nigel Wright (Huddersfield).
Prediction: 2nd.

LEEDS RHINOS
Coach: Graham Murray.
Last season: 2nd.
So close in 1998, this really should be Leeds' year. They have been the quietest of clubs on the transfer market, but have strengthened judiciously. They also have the best crop of young players in the country, several of whom will make their mark this year. The only real question is whether the impending departure of Murray will affect them, but the early signs are that it won't.
In: Jamie Field (Huddersfield), Lee Jackson (Newcastle), Karl Pratt (Featherstone).
Out: Graham Holroyd (Halifax).
Prediction: 1st.

LONDON BRONCOS
Coach: Dan Stains (new).
Last season: 7th.
There's a lower key, more businesslike approach at the Broncos this season that could well see them make a more convincing stab at the top five. Look for a big season from new captain Shaun Edwards in a novelty, all-Pom half-back combination with Karl Hammond.
In: Darren Broadbent (Warrington), Dean Calloway (Warrington), Greg Fennell (Canterbury), Karl Hammond (St George), Robbie Simpson (St George), Brett Watson (Wigan).
Out: Mark Carroll (South Sydney), Damien Chapman, Wes Cottson, Luke Goodwin (all released), Ian Higgins (Hunslet), Nick Hargrove (released), Yerry Matterson (retired), Matt Saller (West Hartlepool RU).
Prediction: 6th.

SALFORD REDS
Coach: Andy Gregory.
Last season: 11th.
A sweeping clear-out has given Salford a new look and there is undoubtedly a more positive mood about the place. The question is whether Andy Gregory can keep a steady hand on the tiller if they have a bad run.
In: Neil Baynes (Wigan), Darren Brown (Parramatta), Paul Carrique (Parramatta), Darren Casey (Wakefield), Craig Makin (Midland), Harrison Smith (Salford), Bobby Thompson (Parramatta).
Out: Cliff Ezdes (Swinton), Peter Edwards (York), Paul Forber (Warrington), Scott Maylor (Bradford), Andy Platt (Warrington), Craig Randall (Halifax), Darren Rogers (Castleford), Lokan Savelle (Widnes), Josh White (released).
Prediction: 10th.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES
Coach: John Kear.
Last season: 8th.
There's a suspicion that Sheffield still haven't got last year's Wembley triumph out of their system and they could miss Paul Broadbent and Paul Carr more than they expect. The prospect of Kear becoming Leeds' next coach could also prove unsettling.
In: Simon Baldwin (Halifax), Jeff Hardy (St George), Karl Lowe (Parramatta), Martin Pearson (Halifax), Dale Power (Halifax).
Out: Paul Broadbent (Halifax), Paul Carr (retired), Willie Morgan (released), Nick Pinkney (Halifax), Lynton Scott (Wakefield), Wicket Tenna (Hull RU), Martin Wood (Keighley).
Prediction: 11th.

Runway gives Hansen high hopes of lift-off

ASHA HANSEN is ready to take a fast track to gold at the World Indoor Championships here on Sunday. She believes the raised runway at the Maebashi Green Dome is ideally suited for her to produce the speed which sets her apart from the rest of the world's triple jumpers.

"It's brilliant - lovely and bouncy," she said yesterday, likening the surface to the one at Lievin in France where she produced a winning effort of 14.81 metres two weeks ago.

That was the furthest she had jumped since setting the world indoor record of 15.16m at last year's European Indoor Championships, and three narrow no-jumps of over 15 metres in the same competition pointed to even greater potential.

Triple jumper leads British athletes' medal pursuit at the World Indoor Championships. By Mike Rowbottom in Maebashi, Japan

"I'm jumping the same kind of distances as I was this time last year so it's very encouraging," she said. Hansen, whose summer was ruined by a heel injury she sustained in setting her world record, managed to win the Commonwealth title last September with a relatively conservative jump, but at last month's Bupa indoor grand prix in Birmingham she showed that she was returning to top form when she matched the 14.76m recorded by the Czech Republic's world outdoor champion, Sarka Kasparikova with her last effort.

Her performance at the national indoor arena indicated that she had lost none of her competitive instincts. "I had four days before Birmingham and I hadn't shaken it off completely," she said.

Kasparikova is likely to be among her closest rivals tomorrow in a contest which will be witnessed by a sell-out crowd of 9,000 - and the Emperor and Empress of Japan, who will be attending their first sporting contest since the ski jump at last year's Winter Olympics in Nagano. It will be a contrast in technique.

"Kasparikova jumps like the old style of Russia jumper who muscles it out," Hansen said. "I've trained to jump like a man. I'm faster on the runway than she is."

Hansen will be taking a legal drug on the eve of competition - ibuprofen, an anti-inflammatory agent. "I don't want to feel any niggles, and it's great for sorting them out," she said. "I don't want that worry at the back of my mind."

Two years ago, Hansen had to hire a lawyer to get herself into the World Indoor Championships team

after she had missed the trials while she was warm weather training in South Africa. Her commitment paid off, as she finished with a silver medal. "Now I can pay my legal bill," she said.

This time around there have been no such complications. She may not have a clear run - but at least Hansen has a clear runway.

Of the British contingent, only Eddie King was reported to have any injury problems yesterday. The 21-year-old Irishman damaged his calf two days ago, but is still in training.

Maurice Greene, the world 60m record holder, arrived here yesterday despite suffering a hamstring problem in qualifying at last weekend's US

Indoor Championships. He was understandably cautious about predicting a world record. "I can't run for it," he said. "I'm just going to run the best I can and hope that it will happen."

Wilson Kipketer, here to defend the 800m title he won in a world record two years ago, was equally reticent about his chances. The naturalised Dane, who returned at the tail end of last season after suffering from malaria while on holiday in his native Kenya, denied that 1998 had been a disappointing year for him.

"It doesn't matter if I'm 100th best or 150th or even 200th. It's about how I feel. As long as I enjoy my running, that's all that matters to me."



Hansen: Faster on the runway

Dallaglio tackles detractors head on

A FICKLE thing, fame. Three months ago to the day, Lawrence Dallaglio was so obviously the flavour of the moment that Rick Stein might have been tempted to crash-tackle the England captain into the nearest pot and cook him whole.

Victory over a highly motivated band of Springbok record hunters not only appeared to justify Clive Woodward's long-term faith in Dallaglio's leadership skills, but also earned the Wasps flanker an undisputed place in the nation's sporting pantheon.

One match later, he has been

RUGBY UNION By CHRIS HEWETT

come a human dartboard; not only do his detractors accuse him of being unable to take decisions in the heat of battle – a serious problem for a captain – but they claim he does not tackle, which is a monstrous allegation to throw at any self-respecting loose forward.

Dallaglio has no urgent need to fight his corner for the campaign against him is every bit as fatuous as the recent witch-hunt mounted against Martin

Johnson, but he has never been an enthusiastic practitioner of the backward step and he decided yesterday to fight the critical fire with a little heat of his own.

"I passed my maths pretty well at school and I know how many tackles I make," he said in Killiney as England finalised their preparations for tomorrow's Five Nations rumble with the up-and-at-'em Irish at Lansdowne Road. "I'm quite happy to take criticism on board – none of us are above criticism, after all – and I accept that we didn't meet the standards we set our-

selves against Scotland a couple of weekends ago. However, I wouldn't want to single out any one member of the team as being responsible for that performance, including myself.

"As an international player, you know when you've played well and when you've performed badly. I wasn't at all satisfied with my own efforts against the Scots but the same could be said for a good many of those senior players who took the field a fortnight ago. There are a lot of very good, experienced hands in the England side and I would not expect any

of them to be guilty of two bad ones in succession. Again, I include myself in that. I think you'll see a different England at Lansdowne Road, one that attempts to play an adventurous game but also does the simple things well and gets the basics absolutely right."

Woodward, the England coach, remarked earlier this week on the pressure being applied to the starting line-up by the bench replacements and foremost among those ambitious wannabes is Martin Corry, whose prodigious performances for Leicester have established him

as the form No 8 in the country. Nevertheless, Woodward never seriously considered making a back-row change, despite the pro-Corry bandwagon. "Lawrence, Richard Hill and Neil Back make up my favourite back row," he reiterated after Wednesday's training session at Blackrock.

You can see why. Back's unique brand of support play puts England's attacking game on a different plane. Hill's overtly physical versatility makes him a central plank of whatever plan the coach chooses to put into operation and Dallaglio possesses the priceless ability to ac-

celerate the pace of a match virtually single-handedly. Also, the latter is the only credible national captain in the country. Dig out the video of last November's shapeless England-Italy World Cup qualifier, a game Dallaglio missed, if you require proof.

The Irish, by contrast, were in happy go lucky mood yesterday, their management striking an intelligent balance between bullish optimism and open respect for their English foe. "England are one of the best sides in the world," pronounced Warren Gatland, the emerald Kiwi from the rugby-

loving farmlands of Waikato. "They will be a little disappointed with their own lack of consistency, I guess, but you can't ignore the fact that in the space of 16 months they've drawn with the All Blacks, lost by a point to the Wallabies in a game they should have won and beaten the world champions."

"Still, we're confident of giving a good account of ourselves. One of the questions I just asked the players in training was: 'Which of you doesn't feel he's a better player than his opposite number?' I can tell you that I didn't get many answers."

Maggs still knocking them over in midfield

Ireland's one-man demolition act will provide a stern test for England in Dublin. Chris Hewett reports

WHEN JEREMY GUSCOTT describes Kevin Maggs as the "silent assassin", he does so in the profoundly disconcerting knowledge that his blood brother from Bath is planning to liven up tomorrow afternoon's Ireland-England proceedings in Dublin with a touch of fratricide. If Guscott is the high-born Prince of Centres, his direct opponent at Lansdowne Road is the usurper from the wrong side of the West Country tracks; a ruthless bit of rough who has glimpsed the good things in life and decided they are his for the taking.

Maggs spent so much of his early career looking up at Guscott – or, rather, trying to locate him with a pair of binoculars as he glided off with the ball under one arm – that nothing would phase him more than to give his club colleague a taste of the good mood of Leinster this weekend. Certainly, he is both physically and mentally equipped to do so; the 24-year-old Bristolian has an unusual take on the "no pain, no gain" philosophy of rugby achievement, in so far as he believes the "pain" element to be the exclusive preserve of his opponents.

Which is precisely why he was able to perform the apparently unperformable at Wembley 13 days ago by running straight through the brick wall known as Scott Gibbs and reducing Swansea's pride and joy to a small pile of rubble that sat forlornly on the Welsh 22-metre line like some hastily constructed mountainside memorial. Maggs also helped himself to a first-half try during that victory, which came as a blessed relief after five straight Five Nations' Championship defeats, and was so tickled by the experience that he caught the first Sunday morning train out of Paddington, rushed across Bristol to his parents' home and relived the moment on video.

The Irish have been the talk

of the Five Nations town over the last five weeks or so and while their pack of reinforced concrete has deservedly taken the lion's share of the public praise, Maggs' name is among those most frequently discussed among the players and coaches. Guscott considers him to be one of the hardest tacklers in the business – Gibbs would surely concur – and if the former Bristol kerb-layer cannot thread a pass like a Codornieu, or sear the turf like a Gerber, his destructive abilities make him very nearly as valuable. After all, the physical havoc wrought by a Free Stater by the name of Joggie Jansen once decided a Springbok-All Black series. He, too, was a centre.

Perversely, Maggs might not be enjoying the high life now were it not for the men who managed his home town club into financial oblivion. "I signed a two-year deal with Bristol at the end of last season, which in retrospect wasn't the brightest of moves," he recalled this week. "We were down in the Second Division having lost the play-off against London Scottish and the way we lost had upset and angered me because I felt we hadn't prepared well enough and weren't as hungry as the opposition, which was unforgivable. But Bristol was my club and had been since I first picked up a ball. It was a loyal thing, I suppose."



Kevin Maggs shows the direct running style and physical presence that has made him a success at centre for Ireland. Inpho

Blow to British events

BRITAIN'S MAJOR international athletics meetings have been relegated.

In a press conference here yesterday, Istvan Gyulai, secretary general of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, confirmed that this season's meetings at Sheffield and Gateshead, formerly of grand prix status one and two respectively, would be reduced in status this year because they failed to generate sufficiently good results in 1998.

"Performances last year were below standard in both cases," said Gyulai, who accepted the re-grading would make it harder to attract top performers and sponsors. "If you are an athlete you are more ready to accept an invitation to a grand prix one meeting and it is more likely to get sponsorship and financial coverage."

If the five Golden League meetings represent the Premiership of the IAAF season, the grand prix one meetings correspond to the Nationwide First Division. Sheffield thus

ATHLETICS By MIKE ROWBOTTOM in Maebashi, Japan

finds itself in the Second Division, and Gateshead, which is reduced to a permit status, in the Third Division.

It is an untimely blow for UK Athletics, whose launch six weeks ago was marred by the news of Doug Walker's adverse doping test.

"We are obviously very disappointed and we shall be doing everything we can to get back into Division One," said the UK Athletics chief executive, Dave Moorcroft, who has guided the domestic sport back from its financial collapse of October 1997. "We spoke to the IAAF and gave them assurances that what happened last year was an exception. We promised that the financial problems would not be repeated. That was obviously not enough."

It is also the second impact in the space of four days on Sheffield's sporting pride. On

Monday, Sheffield's supposed pride of place within the National Academy of Sport network was revealed to be no more than a turn of phrase. Having been chosen as the site of the UK Sports Institute in December 1997, the city will not now be the national centre for any of the major Olympic sports.

The fact that the meeting at Qatar has been granted grand prix one status is not likely to ease the blow in British eyes.

The IAAF also postponed any decision on the venue of the 2003 World Championships, for which London is the only bidder so far, from May to November.

The sitting International Amateur Athletic Federation president, Primo Nebiolo, has announced that he will stand again for the leadership of the sport's world body this year. The 76-year-old Italian, who has often been criticised for his autocratic style, has suffered from cancer for the past decade but has insisted it has not affected his ability to hold down the No 3 ranking job in world sport.

Royce takes on Olympic task

HOCKEY By BILL COLWILL

JON ROYCE, England's Under-21 men's coach, is the surprise choice to lead Great Britain's women to the Sydney Olympics.

In announcing the decision yesterday the Great Britain Board also announced that England's Australian coach, Barry Dancer, has been appointed as the men's coach. Both will return to their England roles after the Olympic campaign.

An excited Royce said yesterday: "Women's hockey is arguably the premier team sport for women so being coach to the Great Britain women is the equivalent to being the England football manager. A very important post. I am looking forward to harnessing the potential of some exciting talent in the British game."

"I see the girls as being particularly good in paying attention to detail but there is a need for considerable improvement in their physical condition."

"He's been a big plus," the coach agreed recently. "He's a heart and soul type and when things aren't going too well, you need that sort of honesty."

According to Maggs, whose maternal grandmother hailed from Limerick, the seminal experience of his career to date did not occur on the high veld of the Free State, but on the killing fields of rural New Zealand a year previously. Freshly selected by an Irish management previously unaware of his eligibility, he was packed off on a development tour of All Black country under Brian Ashton, the newly appointed national coach. It was there that he learned his greatest lesson: that if you show the slightest sign of weakness, good southern hemisphere opposition will bury you alive.

"That was such a desperately hard tour; I've never trained so much in my life and never played rugby in such difficult circumstances. The tour organisers set us into the heartlands, the real one-horse towns where the game is a way of life, and there was no mercy from the New Zealanders. It was a fight for survival, really, and we lost some of our games very heavily. A few of my colleagues on that trip have not featured in the Ireland set-up since."

Yates banned for a month

By DAVID LLEWELLYN

THE BATH prop Kevin Yates was yesterday banned for 28 days by a Rugby Football Union disciplinary panel for his stamp on the Wasps flanker Paul Volley in an Allied Dunbar Premiership match at the beginning of last month. It means the Bath player will be out of action until 1 April.

The panel, which met at Twickenham, decided that Yates was not guilty of wilfully stamping on Volley – the penalty for which would have been a 12-week ban – but found him guilty of the lesser charge of recklessness.

The ban is a further blot on Yates' record after he had been found guilty of biting the ear of the London Scottish flanker Simon Fenn a year ago for which he was banned for six months. But Yates is not out of hot water yet. The RFU has yet to consider another charge relating to the ear-biting incident. That will be heard at a date still to be decided. Yates is alleged not to have paid £20,000 towards London Scottish's legal costs, incurred during the hearing 13 months ago. If he is found guilty then he could face a further six-month suspension.

France have been forced into making a late change to their team to face Wales at the Stade de France tomorrow. The Brive flanker, Olivier Magne, is suffering from a foot injury and his place in the back row is taken by the debutant Marc Raynaud, of Narbonne. It is the first time Magne has missed an international through injury since his debut in 1997.

Richmond have yet to decide whether to apply for an administration order after admitting they have run up losses this year of a reported £1.5m.

Their owner Ashley Levett wants to reduce his stake in the club by up to 25 per cent and the club is looking into ways of raising the necessary £1.4m which would allow them to retain their present playing staff.

With weekly outgoings estimated at between £85,000 and £90,000, including the £15,000 rent they pay to Reading FC for use of the Madejski Stadium and its facilities, it is likely that the administrators would have to consider trimming the playing staff and cutting wages.

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

Resort	Area open	Comment	Slopes (cm)		Last snow	Temp	Forecast
			Low	Up			
SKI HOTLINE							
Detailed independent snow and weather reports from 180 resorts							
First, obtain the access code for the resort of your choice. Phone or Fax 0870 51 00 843 (the fax lists codes for 180 resorts)							
To listen to the latest snow and weather report: Phone 0901 47 70 051 + code							
For a fax copy of the latest snow and weather report: Fax 0906 55 00 086 + code							
SKI HOTLINE SNAPSHOT							
A detailed four-page summary of conditions in 180 resorts Fax 0906 55 00 601							
Helpline: 0870 51 33 345							
Calls to 0901 cost 60p per min, 0906 cost £1 per min, 0870 calls are standard national rate.							
On or off piste, with WorldCover you're covered.							
0800 365 121							
ONE CALL AND YOU'RE COVERED							
www.worldcover.com							
The report at							
TRAVEL INSURANCE							

26/RACING

Williams warns of the unexpected

THE CHELTENHAM Gold Cup always seems so easy to solve at this time of the year. The form of the previous year's encounter is laid out in front of us and the more pertinent evidence of recent racecourse performances is in the form book. Finding the victor always seems to be less prediction than deduction. Somehow, though, it never turns out quite like that.

The Blue Riband may be the conditions chase that enriches its winners like no other in the calendar but it is hardly a contest that similarly fills the pockets of dedicated punters. Cool Down, the winner last year, was sent off at 25-1, and he inherited the crown from a 20-1 shot in Mr Mulligan. The man who backed both has yet to make himself available for public scrutiny.

Yet their's is not the most outrageous tale. That came in 1990 when a horse trotted out of his corrugated shed on a milk farm

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

term, including a Hennessy Gold Cup and King George VI Chase, lending the increasing thought along the way that he would become the first grey to win a Gold Cup since Desert Orchid in 1989.

Tetton Mill had some technical problems after Kempton, but the manner in which he ran away from a field at Ascot, over a distance short of his best, two weeks ago, suggested the chassis was back to its finest working order.

The 10-year-old is now supremely race hardened and will not be asked to accomplish anything too strenuous in the Festival build-up. "He will just be doing the same as I usually do with him over the next two weeks," Williams said. "We will not try to do anything different and keep him in one piece."

It was an odd facet of Tetton Mill's Ascot success that some observers attempted to see weakness in his win. It was opined that the horse had exhibited so much acceleration that there had to be a doubt about whether he would get the extended three miles and two furlongs of the Gold Cup journey.

"They said he wouldn't be quick enough and then they said he wouldn't stay further," Williams said. "I was actually quite amused by it. I know the press have got a job to do, to write about racing and make it interesting, although a couple of times this season I might not have been so charitable."

The trainer has less good news to offer about another one of her star turns, Happy Change, a Group 2 winner on the flat who has yet to show whether his skills stretch to the winter game. He had been intended to start his racecourse education in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton last month but was forced to miss that engagement. He will now also be absent for the Champion Hurdle itself.

"We have just run out of time to get him ready for Cheltenham," Williams said. "We will play it by ear and when he is ready to run we will see what there is. Time was a bit tight and, unfortunately, we ran out."

A similar comment could be applied to Tetton Mill himself. He has won four races this



Tetton Mill, Gold Cup joint-favourite and master of Aramstone Stables, near Ross-on-Wye, takes a stroll yesterday with his trainer, Venetia Williams. Robert Halliday

Stewards puzzled by Tate's sweet win

A SIX-LENGTH victory by a 20-1 shot in the "Showcase Handicap", the Tote Hurdle at Ludlow yesterday, attracted the attention of the track's stewards.

Two Lords, trained at Kidderminster by Martin Tate, had been available at 33-1 in the morning, largely because he was 19lb out of the handicap. The seven-year-old had been

the subject of a stewards' inquiry earlier in the season at Bangor when Tate was fined £700. Yesterday the Ludlow stewards looked into the improved form by Two Lords, compared with his last run at Haydock in January when he was beaten 50 lengths into fourth place.

The stewards noted Tate's explanation that Two Lords was suited by the better ground. Tate said: "This was only the horse's fourth run for me. He had been breaking blood vessels, but we've managed to sort that out now. He's also been hunting and that's sweetened him up as well."

On Cheltenham Festival front, Val Ward yesterday confirmed City Hall as a runner in the Champion Hurdle.

The trainer said the grey remained in excellent form following his good second to Decapage in the Tote Gold Trophy, when giving that winner 10lb. "I wouldn't expect him to beat Istabraq but he was runner-up in the Triumph Hurdle last year and I'd be delighted if he was placed again," Ward said. City Hall, who would be best suited by good to soft

Kelso 4.30

	C	H	L	S
Rockingham	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1
Scotmail Lad	7-2	3-1	1-4	4-1
Cash Box	1-2	6-1	5-1	5-1
Cash Box	5-1	6-1	5-1	5-1
Out of the Blue	5-1	6-1	5-1	5-1
Norman Conquest	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Norman Conquest	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Desert Omen	1-1	2-1	2-1	2-1
My Salween	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Scotmail Lad	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Scotmail Lad	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1

Each way 1/4 of the odds, please 1, 2, 3
C: Cash, H: Heat, L: Luck, S: Slight

KELSO

HYPERION

2.20 Ilahabed 3.55 Feels Like Gold
2.55 Spirit of Steel 4.30 SCOTMAIL LAD (nap)
3.25 Knockara Fair 5.00 Zamharer

GOING: Soft (heavy in places)
1. Unusually course. Run over two furlongs.
2. Course is N of town off B6461. Admission: Club £4 (Juniors 16-21 half-price) on Saturdays. Club £10 weekdays. Tattersalls 17 (OPAs & Students £4 accompanied under-18s). Cash Bar £10.
3. LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M. Reayley 36 winners from 129 runners (success rate 27.9%). M. Hammond 22 (20.4%). P. Mitchell 14 (10.8%). G. M. Moore 10 (8.5%).
4. LEADING JOCKEYS: P. Nicholls 39 wins from 100 rides (success rate 39%). A. Dobbin 35 (16.7%). B. Stoney 20 (17.0%). R. Gerrard 15 (23.4%).
5. FAVOURITES: 168 wins in 404 races (41.6%).
6. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Springtown 15 (5).

2.20 KELSO MEMBERS' JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4yo 2m 11yo 10yo 11yo 12yo 13yo 14yo 15yo 16yo 17yo 18yo 19yo 20yo 21yo 22yo 23yo 24yo 25yo 26yo 27yo 28yo 29yo 30yo 31yo 32yo 33yo 34yo 35yo 36yo 37yo 38yo 39yo 40yo 41yo 42yo 43yo 44yo 45yo 46yo 47yo 48yo 49yo 50yo 51yo 52yo 53yo 54yo 55yo 56yo 57yo 58yo 59yo 60yo 61yo 62yo 63yo 64yo 65yo 66yo 67yo 68yo 69yo 70yo 71yo 72yo 73yo 74yo 75yo 76yo 77yo 78yo 79yo 80yo 81yo 82yo 83yo 84yo 85yo 86yo 87yo 88yo 89yo 90yo 91yo 92yo 93yo 94yo 95yo 96yo 97yo 98yo 99yo 100yo 101yo 102yo 103yo 104yo 105yo 106yo 107yo 108yo 109yo 110yo 111yo 112yo 113yo 114yo 115yo 116yo 117yo 118yo 119yo 120yo 121yo 122yo 123yo 124yo 125yo 126yo 127yo 128yo 129yo 130yo 131yo 132yo 133yo 134yo 135yo 136yo 137yo 138yo 139yo 140yo 141yo 142yo 143yo 144yo 145yo 146yo 147yo 148yo 149yo 150yo 151yo 152yo 153yo 154yo 155yo 156yo 157yo 158yo 159yo 160yo 161yo 162yo 163yo 164yo 165yo 166yo 167yo 168yo 169yo 170yo 171yo 172yo 173yo 174yo 175yo 176yo 177yo 178yo 179yo 180yo 181yo 182yo 183yo 184yo 185yo 186yo 187yo 188yo 189yo 190yo 191yo 192yo 193yo 194yo 195yo 196yo 197yo 198yo 199yo 200yo 201yo 202yo 203yo 204yo 205yo 206yo 207yo 208yo 209yo 210yo 211yo 212yo 213yo 214yo 215yo 216yo 217yo 218yo 219yo 220yo 221yo 222yo 223yo 224yo 225yo 226yo 227yo 228yo 229yo 230yo 231yo 232yo 233yo 234yo 235yo 236yo 237yo 238yo 239yo 240yo 241yo 242yo 243yo 244yo 245yo 246yo 247yo 248yo 249yo 250yo 251yo 252yo 253yo 254yo 255yo 256yo 257yo 258yo 259yo 260yo 261yo 262yo 263yo 264yo 265yo 266yo 267yo 268yo 269yo 270yo 271yo 272yo 273yo 274yo 275yo 276yo 277yo 278yo 279yo 280yo 281yo 282yo 283yo 284yo 285yo 286yo 287yo 288yo 289yo 290yo 291yo 292yo 293yo 294yo 295yo 296yo 297yo 298yo 299yo 300yo 301yo 302yo 303yo 304yo 305yo 306yo 307yo 308yo 309yo 310yo 311yo 312yo 313yo 314yo 315yo 316yo 317yo 318yo 319yo 320yo 321yo 322yo 323yo 324yo 325yo 326yo 327yo 328yo 329yo 330yo 331yo 332yo 333yo 334yo 335yo 336yo 337yo 338yo 339yo 340yo 341yo 342yo 343yo 344yo 345yo 346yo 347yo 348yo 349yo 350yo 351yo 352yo 353yo 354yo 355yo 356yo 357yo 358yo 359yo 360yo 361yo 362yo 363yo 364yo 365yo 366yo 367yo 368yo 369yo 370yo 371yo 372yo 373yo 374yo 375yo 376yo 377yo 378yo 379yo 380yo 381yo 382yo 383yo 384yo 385yo 386yo 387yo 388yo 389yo 390yo 391yo 392yo 393yo 394yo 395yo 396yo 397yo 398yo 399yo 400yo 401yo 402yo 403yo 404yo 405yo 406yo 407yo 408yo 409yo 410yo 411yo 412yo 413yo 414yo 415yo 416yo 417yo 418yo 419yo 420yo 421yo 422yo 423yo 424yo 425yo 426yo 427yo 428yo 429yo 430yo 431yo 432yo 433yo 434yo 435yo 436yo 437yo 438yo 439yo 440yo 441yo 442yo 443yo 444yo 445yo 446yo 447yo 448yo 449yo 450yo 451yo 452yo 453yo 454yo 455yo 456yo 457yo 458yo 459yo 460yo 461yo 462yo 463yo 464yo 465yo 466yo 467yo 468yo 469yo 470yo 471yo 472yo 473yo 474yo 475yo 476yo 477yo 478yo 479yo 480yo 481yo 482yo 483yo 484yo 485yo 486yo 487yo 488yo 489yo 490yo 491yo 492yo 493yo 494yo 495yo 496yo 497yo 498yo 499yo 500yo 501yo 502yo 503yo 504yo 505yo 506yo 507yo 508yo 509yo 510yo 511yo 512yo 513yo 514yo 515yo 516yo 517yo 518yo 519yo 520yo 521yo 522yo 523yo 524yo 525yo 526yo 527yo 528yo 529yo 530yo 531yo 532yo 533yo 534yo 535yo 536yo 537yo 538yo 539yo 540yo 541yo 542yo 543yo 544yo 545yo 546yo 547yo 548yo 549yo 550yo 551yo 552yo 553yo 554yo 555yo 556yo 557yo 558yo 559yo 560yo 561yo 562yo 563yo 564yo 565yo 566yo 567yo 568yo 569yo 570yo 571yo 572yo 573yo 574yo 575yo 576yo 577yo 578yo 579yo 580yo 581yo 582yo 583yo 584yo 585yo 586yo 587yo 588yo 589yo 590yo 591yo 592yo 593yo 594yo 595yo 596yo 597yo 598yo 599yo 600yo 601yo 602yo 603yo 604yo 605yo 606yo 607yo 608yo 609yo 610yo 611yo 612yo 613yo 614yo 615yo 616yo 617yo 618yo 619yo 620yo 621yo 622yo 623yo 624yo 625yo 626yo 627yo 628yo 629yo 630yo 631yo 632yo 633yo 634yo 635yo 636yo 637yo 638yo 639yo 640yo 641yo 642yo 643yo 644yo 645yo 646yo 647yo 648yo 649yo 650yo 651yo 652yo 653yo 654yo 655yo 656yo 657yo 658yo 659yo 660yo 661yo 662yo 663yo 664yo 665yo 666yo 667yo 668yo 669yo 670yo 671yo 672yo 673yo 674yo 675yo 676yo 677yo 678yo 679yo 680yo 681yo 682yo 683yo 684yo 685yo 686yo 687yo 688yo 689yo 690yo 691yo 692yo 693yo 694yo 695yo 696yo 697yo 698yo 699yo 700yo 701yo 702yo 703yo 704yo 705yo 706yo 707yo 708yo 709yo 710yo 711yo 712yo 713yo 714yo 715yo 716yo 717yo 718yo 719yo 720yo 721yo 722yo 723yo 724yo 725yo 726yo 727yo 728yo 729yo 730yo 731yo 732yo 733yo 734yo 735yo 736yo 737yo 738yo 739yo 740yo 741yo 742yo 743yo 744yo 745yo 746yo 747yo 748yo 749yo 750yo 751yo 752yo 753yo 754yo 755yo 756yo 757yo 758yo 759yo 760yo 761yo 762yo 763yo 764yo 765yo 766yo 767yo 768yo 769yo 770yo 771yo 772yo 773yo 774yo 775yo 776yo 777yo 778yo 779yo 780yo 781yo 782yo 783yo 784yo 785yo 786yo 787yo 788yo 789yo 790yo 791yo 792yo 793yo 794yo 795yo 796yo 797yo 798yo 799yo 800yo 801yo 802yo 803yo 804yo 805yo 806yo 807yo 808yo 809yo 810yo 811yo 812yo 813yo 814yo 815yo 816yo 817yo 818yo 819yo 820yo 821yo 822yo 823yo 824yo 825yo 826yo 827yo 828yo 829yo 830yo 831yo 832yo 833yo 834yo 835yo 836yo 837yo 838yo 839yo 840yo 841yo 842yo 843yo 844yo 845yo 846yo 847yo 848yo 849yo 850yo 851yo 852yo 853yo 854yo 855yo 856yo 857yo 858yo 859yo 860yo 861yo 862yo 863yo 864yo 865yo 866yo 867yo 868yo 869yo 870yo 871yo 872yo 873yo 874yo 875yo 876yo 877yo 878yo 879yo 880yo 881yo 882yo 883yo 884yo 885yo 886yo 887yo 888yo 889yo 890yo 891yo 892yo 893yo 894yo 895yo 896yo 897yo 898yo 899yo 900yo 901yo 902yo 903yo 904yo 905yo 906yo 907yo 908yo 909yo 910yo 911yo 912yo 913yo 914yo 915yo 916yo 917yo 918yo 919yo 920yo 921yo 922yo 923yo 924yo 925yo 926yo 927yo 928yo 929yo 930yo 931yo 932yo 933yo 934yo 935yo 936yo 937yo 938yo 939yo 940yo 941yo 942yo 943yo 944yo 945yo 946yo 947yo 948yo 949yo 950yo 951yo 952yo 953yo 954yo 955yo 956yo 957yo 958yo 959yo 960yo 961yo 962yo 963yo 964yo 965yo 966yo 967yo 968yo 969yo 970yo 971yo 972yo 973yo 974yo 975yo 976yo 977yo 978yo 979yo 980yo 981yo 982yo 983yo 984yo 985yo 986yo 987yo 988yo 989yo 990yo 991yo 992yo 993yo 994yo 995yo 996yo 997yo 998yo 999yo 1000yo 1001yo 1002yo 1003yo 1004yo 1005yo 1006yo 1007yo 1008yo 1009yo 1010yo 1011yo 1012yo 1013yo 1014yo 1015yo 1016yo 1017yo 1018yo 1019yo 1020yo 1021yo 1022yo 1023yo 1024yo 1025yo 1026yo 1027yo 1028yo 1029yo 1030yo 1031yo 1032yo 1033yo 1034yo 1035yo 1036yo 1037yo 1038yo 1039yo 1040yo 1041yo 1042yo 1043yo 1044yo 1045yo 1046yo 1047yo 1048yo 1049yo 1050yo 1051yo 1052yo 1053yo 1054yo 1055yo 1056yo 1057yo 1058yo 1059yo 1060yo 1061yo 1062yo 1063yo 1064yo 1065yo 1066yo 1067yo 1068yo 1069yo 1070yo 1071yo 1072yo 1073yo 1074yo 1075yo 1076yo 1077yo 1078yo 1079yo 1080yo 1081yo 1082yo 1083yo 1084yo 1085yo 1086yo 1087yo 1088yo 1089yo 1090yo 1091yo 1092yo 1093yo 1094yo 1095yo 1096yo 1097yo 1098yo 1099yo 1100yo 1101yo 1102yo 1103yo 1104yo 1105yo 1106yo 1107yo 1108yo 1109yo 1110yo 1111yo 1112yo 1113yo 1114yo 1115yo 1116yo 1117yo 1118yo 1119yo 1120yo 1121yo 1122yo 1123yo 1124yo 1125yo 1126yo 1127yo 1128yo 1129yo 1130yo 1131yo 1132yo 1133yo 1134yo 1135yo 1136yo 1137yo 1138yo 1139yo 1140yo 1141yo 1142yo 1143yo 1144yo 1145yo 1146yo 1147yo 1148yo 1149yo 1150yo 1151yo 1152yo 1153yo 1154yo 1155yo 1156yo 1157yo 1158yo 1159yo 1160yo 1161yo 1162yo 1163yo 1164yo 1165yo 1166yo 1167yo 1168yo 1169yo 1170yo 1171yo 1172yo 1173yo 1174yo 1175yo 1176yo 1177yo 1178yo 1179yo 1180yo 1181yo 1182yo 1183yo 1184yo 1185yo 1186yo 1187yo 1188yo 1189yo 1190yo 1191yo 1192yo 1193yo 1194yo 1195yo 1196yo 1197yo 1198yo 1199yo 1200yo 1201yo 1202yo 1203yo 1204yo 1205yo 1206yo 1207yo 1208yo 1209yo 1210yo 1211yo 1212yo 1213yo 1214yo 1215yo 1216yo 1217yo 1218yo 1219yo 1220yo 1221yo 1222yo 1223yo 1224yo 1225yo 1226yo 1227yo 1228yo 1229yo 1230yo 1231yo 1232yo 1233yo 1234yo 1235yo 1236yo 1237yo 1238yo 1239yo 1240yo 1241yo 1242yo 1243yo 1244yo 1245yo 1246yo 1247yo 1248yo 1249yo 1250yo 1251yo 1252yo 1253yo 1254yo 1255yo 1256yo 1257yo 1258yo 1259yo 1260yo 1261yo 1262yo 1263yo 1264yo 1265yo 1266yo 1267yo 1268yo 1269yo 1270yo 1271yo 1272yo 1273yo 1274yo 1275yo 1276yo 1277yo 1278yo 1279yo 1280yo 1281yo 1282yo 1283yo 1284yo 1285yo 1286yo 1287yo 1288yo 1289yo 1290yo 1291yo 1292yo 1293yo 1294yo 1295yo 1296yo 1297yo 1298yo 1299yo 1300yo 1301yo 1302yo 1303yo 1304yo 1305yo 1306yo 1307yo 1308yo 1309yo 1310yo 1311yo 1312yo 1313yo 1314yo 1315yo 1316yo 1317yo 1318yo 1319yo 1320yo 1321yo 1322yo 1323yo 1324yo 1325yo 1326yo 1327yo 1328yo 1329yo 1330yo 1331yo 1332yo 1333yo 1334yo 1335yo 1336yo 1337yo 1338yo 1339yo 1340yo 1341yo 1342yo 1343yo 1344yo 1345yo 1346yo 1347yo 1348yo 1349yo 1350yo 1351yo 1352yo 1353yo 1354yo 1355yo 1356yo 1357yo 1358yo 1359yo 1360yo 1361yo 1362yo 1363yo 1364yo 1365yo 1366yo 1367yo 1368yo 1369yo 1370yo 1371yo 1372yo 1373yo 1374yo 1375yo 1376yo 1377yo 1378yo 1379yo 1380yo 1381yo 1382yo 1383yo 1384yo 1385yo 1386yo 1387yo 1388yo 1389yo 1390yo 1391yo 1392yo 1393yo 1394yo 1395yo 1396yo 1397yo 1398yo 1399yo 1400yo 1401yo 1402yo 1403yo 1404yo 1405yo 1406yo 1407yo 1408yo 1409yo 1410yo 1411yo 1412yo 1413yo 1414yo 1415yo 1416yo 1417yo 1418yo 1419yo 1420yo 1421yo 1422yo 1423yo 1424yo 1425yo 1426yo 1427yo 1428yo 1429yo 1430yo 1431yo 1432yo 1433yo 1434yo 1435yo 1436yo 1437yo 1438yo 1439yo 1440yo 1441yo 1442yo 1443yo 1444yo 1445yo 1446yo 1447yo 1448yo 1449yo 1450yo 1451yo 1452yo 1453yo 1454yo 1455yo 1456yo 1457yo 1458yo 1459yo 1460yo 1461yo 1462yo 1463yo 1464yo 1465yo 1466yo 1467yo 1468yo 1469yo 1470yo 1471yo 1472yo 1473yo 1474yo 1475yo 1476yo 1477yo 1478yo 1479yo 1480yo 1481yo 1482yo 1483yo 1484yo 1485yo 1486yo 1487yo 1488yo 1489yo 1490yo 1491yo 1492yo 1493yo 1494yo 1495yo 1496yo 1497yo 1498yo 1499yo 1500yo 1501yo 1502yo 1503yo 1504yo 1505yo 1506yo 1507yo 1508yo 1509yo 1510yo 1511yo 1512yo 1513yo 1514yo 1515yo 1516yo 1517yo 1518yo 1519yo 1520yo 1521yo 1522yo 1523yo 1524yo 1525yo 1526yo 1527yo 1528yo 1529yo 1530yo 1531yo 1532yo 1533yo 1534yo 1535yo 1536yo 1537yo 1538yo 1539yo 1540yo 1541yo 1542yo 1543yo 1544yo 1545yo 1546yo 1547yo 1548yo 1549yo 1550yo 1551yo 1552yo 1553yo 1554yo 1555yo 1556yo 1557yo 1558yo 1559yo 1560yo 1561yo 1562yo 1563yo 1564yo 1565yo 1566yo 1567yo 1568yo 1569yo 1570yo 1571yo 1572yo 1573yo 1574yo 1575yo 1576yo 1577yo 1578yo 1579yo 1580yo 1581yo 1582yo 1583yo 1584yo 1585yo 1586yo 1587yo 1588yo 1589yo 1590yo 1591yo 1592yo 1593yo 1594yo 1595yo 1596yo 1597yo 1598yo 1599yo 1600yo 1601yo 1602yo 1603yo 1604yo 1605yo 1606yo 1607yo 1608yo 1609yo 1610yo 1611yo 1612yo 1613yo 1614yo 1615yo 1616yo 1617yo 1618yo 1619yo 1620yo 1621yo 1622yo 1623yo 1624yo 1625yo 1626yo 1627yo 1628yo 1629yo 1630yo 1631yo 1632yo 1633yo 1634yo 1635yo 1636yo 1637yo 1638yo 1639yo 1640yo 1641yo 1642yo 1643yo 1644yo 1645yo 1646yo 1647yo 1648yo 1649yo 1650yo 1651yo 1652yo 1653yo 1654yo 1655yo 1656yo 1657yo 1658yo 1659yo 1660yo 1661yo 1662yo 1663yo 1664yo 1665yo 1666yo 1667yo 1668yo 1669yo 1670yo 1671yo 1672yo 1673yo 1674yo 1675yo 1676yo 1677yo 1678yo 1679yo 1680yo 1681yo 1682yo 1683yo 1684yo 1685yo 1686yo 1687yo 1688yo 1689yo 1690yo 1691yo 1692yo 1693yo 1694yo 1695yo 1696yo 1697yo 1698yo 1699yo 1700yo 1701yo 1702yo 1703yo 1704yo 1705yo 1706yo 1707yo 1708yo 1709yo 1710yo 1711yo 1712yo 1713yo 1714yo 1

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 5 March 1999

Jordan still his team's driving force

The irrepressible team owner has targeted third place in the constructors' championship. By Derick Allsop

THESE DAYS Eddie Jordan's interviews are by the contention he is no longer going to make extravagant statements because some of his pronouncements in the past have caused him deep embarrassment.

Firstly, of course, that prompts the question: can you imagine Eddie Jordan ever being embarrassed, to any degree? But then, having taken the point, you listen in bewilderment as he proceeds to offer his unbridled views on the season ahead and talks of his team's "desperation" to finish in third place in the constructors' championship.

The recent suggestion that Damon Hill would probably quit if he found the going "too

tough" this year, despite the driver's insistence that retirement did not feature on his agenda, was typical of Jordan's inability to stick to this guarded script.

It could be put down to his irrepressible enthusiasm, his sense of mischief, or in his inherent naivety. It is also just possible that here may be a clue to his cunning method of man management and a well-honed business acumen. Jordan and his team are in Formula One to win and Hill, at his sharpest, is an important asset.

The former champion proved as much in the second half of last season, when he prevented Jordan with their maid-

en grand prix victory and continued to deliver the points which enabled the team to finish a best-ever fourth in the standings.

All this, however, after a fruitless and frustrating first half of the season. The car was not good enough, but at least Jordan's other driver, the youthful Ralf Schumacher, managed to generate some pace and maintain a flicker of defiance.

Hill, having enjoyed championship success and 21 grand prix wins with Williams, admitted he could not so readily motivate himself with inferior equipment and the team were palpably dismayed by his contribution to their ailing cause.

Formula One's oldest competitor hinted then at retirement if he could not assure himself of some professional satisfaction and, despite conflicting messages from driver and team, the transparent and persistent indication from Jordan was that they would not be too distraught if Hill walked away. At any rate, they were advised to keep him only at a reduced fee.

Suddenly circumstances and the mood in the camp changed. Hill, provided with a much improved car, responded to the challenge, rediscovering his form and appetite and giving the team the kind of lead-



At least one lens was on Damon Hill yesterday after practice for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park

AP/Rick Ryckoff



Jordan: Cunning man-manager or naive? Allsop

ership they felt they were paying for.

Eddie Jordan will have heeded the lessons of those chastening and fulfilling experiences. A year on, he has a clearer understanding of Hill and how to get the best out of him. He has publicly lauded Hill to the hilt, acclaiming him as the man who taught his team how to win. But then he has

been at pains to lavish praise on his new driver, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, predicting the Englishman could be seriously pushed by the German.

And then Jordan broaches the subject of Hill's future. If he goes well he will be offered a new contract. If he does not and he finds it all a bit too much then he would surely wish to go gracefully, and Jordan can ap-

preciate that. Just a touch of the Irishman's wicked blarney? Or a premeditated strategy to ruffe Hill's feathers and keep him on his toes?

The commendation for Frentzen would certainly seem to dig Hill in the ribs too. The very presence of Frentzen in the team should serve the same purpose. Hill was sacked by Williams to make way for the

driver now alongside him. What delicious irony.

Pride plays a significant part in the make-up of achievers, and Hill is conscious of the comparisons about to be made. The internal duel will occupy his resolute endeavours, which in turn should ensure the forward momentum of the team effort.

At the age of 38, Hill does

not have much racing left in him, but he goes into another season comforted by his year with the team, the development of the car, and the quality of his driving. Although he acknowledges the championship may be beyond Jordan's range, race wins are perhaps not, and his immediate objective is to add to his haul of 22.

McLaren set for another fast start

IF YOU thought that Mika Hakkinen was in good form last year, watch out for him even more closely in 1999. That was the warning that McLaren's chief, Ron Dennis, issued to rivals yesterday as the Formula One circus limbered up for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne's Albert Park.

Across the room Hakkinen looked every inch a world champion, basking in his usual shy but cheerful manner in the glory of being a man who, a year ago, had but one grand prix victory to his credit and is now King of the World. The 30-year-old Finn is now a thoroughly seasoned campaigner and a fulfilled man. Last year brought him both a championship crown and the stability of marriage. "Sure, life has been good for me lately," he said. "And of course I will be

doing everything I can to win again this season. I don't see why I shouldn't. The new car is very good and we know it is a step ahead from last year's. I'm feeling very confident." It showed.

"Mika will be stronger than ever with the world championship under his belt," Dennis said. "He is a happier person and he is one of those racers who's always stronger when their confidence and competitiveness have been raised."

Hakkinen and his team-mate, David Coulthard, stormed away from the field in the Australian Grand Prix 12 months ago and set the tone for the British team's domination of a season in which only Michael Schumacher in the Ferrari could

challenge them. But they were dogged by the controversial team orders that obliged Coulthard to hand over the lead after Hakkinen had lost it by mishearing a radio order and driving into the pit lane to find that nobody was expecting him. By honouring a pre-race agreement and surrendering the lead without demur, Coulthard brought upon his own head the wrath of thousands of betting fans who felt they had been cheated out of his victory.

Coulthard smiled tolerantly when reminded of the controversy. "People were actually sending me their betting slips after that," he joked. "A lot of them seemed to understand that it wasn't my fault which I was grateful for. But a lot of them wanted me to send the slips on to Ron with some quite

inventive and colourful instructions as to what he should do with them."

Coulthard knows that 1999 will be his crunch year. Like Hakkinen, he too looked confident when the cards are falling as badly as they did at times in a season when he often matched Hakkinen's pace but failed to go the distance. He won the San Marino Grand Prix but his car wilted in Monaco, Montreal and Monza when further successes seemed imminent.

"I believe that I'm as quick as Mika," Coulthard said. "But all through the winter I've been working at my consistency. That was what suffered at times last season and it really hurt my chances. It was not always down to me, sometimes it was the car that was unreliable.

But I know if things work out for me that I can win the title this year. Right from the start, I'll be pushing as hard as I can."

"It's time," Jackie Stewart said of a nice guy and more of an uncompromising hard charger.

It is easy to look back now and suggest that if Schumacher had not driven into the back of the troubled Coulthard while lapping him in appalling weather conditions during the Belgian Grand Prix that was subsequently won for Jordan by Damon Hill, he could have been crowned Ferrari's first Champion since Jody Scheckter in 1979. But McLaren have the upper hand and only seem failible through the occasional lapse in reliability. Ferrari is seizing on that once again after stories that the latest McLaren

has thus far proved capricious - it lasted less than a lap on its testing debut in Spain when a fault in the electronics brought Coulthard to a halt. But yesterday Dennis exuded confidence. "It's true that we prepared last year's cars as well but that was only because we had spare capacity at the factory," he said. "Like any new car, MP4/14 had its share of teething problems but we are confident that we have the car fully optimised and have committed to it here because we believe that it's fundamentally faster." Rivals be warned.

The odds favour a repeat of McLaren's one-two result in 1998 and, who knows, Coulthard may yet get his payback. But after all the fuss last year, Albert Park must be the last place McLaren would dare to fix that.

TOMORROW



Even though Schumacher is still at Ferrari, the faith has waned. Twice he almost made it but perhaps, as he pleads, he is not Superman after all. Just being the best driver in the world is not necessarily enough.

Derick Allsop on a crucial year for Michael Schumacher and his team

DONCASTER

HYPERION

2.00 Grooving 2.30 General Claremont 3.05 Dragons Bay 3.35 Salmon Breeze 4.10 Memeahb Ofeetee 4.40 Galt 5.15 Goodthyme Lady

GOING: Good.

Left-hand, pear-shaped course with 1m straight.

Course is E of town off the A638 (M18 Jct 3 & 4). Bus link from Doncaster Central station. Admission: Club £5, Grandstand £5, Family Enclosure £5 (under 16s free all enclosed), CAR PARK Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M. Wrenley 10-58 (62.9%), N. Henderson 10-58 (62.9%), D. Nicholson 10-58 (62.9%), T. Eassey 10-58 (62.9%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P. Canby 11-45 (27.5%), M. Fitzgerald 11-45 (27.5%), P. Niven 11-45 (27.5%), R. Gentry 11-45 (27.5%).

RECENT RESULTS: 1. 10-58 (62.9%), 2. 10-58 (62.9%), 3. 10-58 (62.9%), 4. 10-58 (62.9%), 5. 10-58 (62.9%).

LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: That's No Answer (3.35) sent 248 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: White Breeze (2.00), Prairie Ind (2.30), Sumo (3.05), Children's Choice (3.35), Dragons Bay (3.35).

SPRINTING CLAIMING HURDLE

(CLASS B) £2,000 added 2m 4f

1. 00222 DUBLIN RIVER (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 00222 GROOVING (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 00222 LEAP IN THE DARK (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 00222 SAINT CUE (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 00222 KAREN'S TYNNON (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 00222 ROLF (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 00222 WILLIE B. BROWN (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 00222 ANIMAL (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 00222 DANCING AT LAMAR (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 00222 GROOMING WELCOME (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 00222 MUD ON THE WALL (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

GROOVING would be meeting all of today's mares on worse terms than this was a handicap, and this is his opportunity to get an overdue first success of the campaign. Saint Cue, closest to him on official figures, has been out of sorts and makes limited appeal over a trip which stretches his stamina to its limits.

2.30 SOUTH YORKSHIRE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

1. 4402 OTHER CLASH (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4402 COPPER SHELL (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4402 GENERAL CLAREMONT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4402 NORTHERN ACCORD (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4402 WILLOW (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4402 HEMLOCK FLYER (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4402 DYNAMIC LORD (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4402 MEANWIND (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4402 FOREST INDIAN (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 4402 PRAIRIE (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 4402 INTO BATTLE (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

12. 4402 MARCH MARGOLD (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

13. 4402 STRAYFALL (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

14. 4402 FOX FOR GOLD (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

15. 4402 SUMO (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

16. 4402 CHILDREN'S CHOICE (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

17. 4402 DECOIT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

SALMON BREEZE is taken to return to his best and he is just preferred to Military Academy, although there is probably not a lot between the pair. Carlisle Breeze should not be left out of calculations, but the two prospects are probably stronger stables.

4.10 WADSWORTH NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

1. 4325 MEASURED OFFSTEEM (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4325 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4325 ANDY'S BIRTHDAY (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4325 CHUCKLES (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4325 FEAR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4325 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4325 LAROUS AURELIUS (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4325 MIDWINTER (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4325 PROFESSOR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 4325 REGAL BLUFF (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 4325 STRONG MAGIC (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Goodthyme Lady is obviously the one to beat after her good debut at last year's C&D but the bare facts are that she was easily out-paced in the first two runs and was giving 10lb from the winner. If there is an above-average newcomer in the field, Goodthyme Lady is unbeatable and she is the one to watch on paper as Wind A Topper, Chancel and Danzig Rose. The latter is bred to have ability and comes from a stable that has a good record in this type of contest.

FORM VERDICT

COOPER SMELLY, looks like a winner. He is good form on the AW circuit recently, he topped on a short course on a couple of occasions in the autumn but was a fair fourth in a winner on a good to soft going in November. Today's ground should suit him, and he is likely to score from the top. For Gold, who will certainly be at home on the going and remains on a handy mark.

3.05 JOHN BOOTLE MEMORIAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

1. 4025 DANIEL MANN (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4025 HANGING OUT TO DRY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4025 LOUGH LEIN SPIRIT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4025 OUT BY NIGHT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4025 DRAGON'S BAY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4025 JILL JOY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4025 EL COMPOSER (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4025 CHEVALIER (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4025 GALLANT LORD (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Minimum weight. That's No Answer (3.35) sent 248 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: White Breeze (2.00), Prairie Ind (2.30), Sumo (3.05), Children's Choice (3.35), Dragons Bay (3.35).

3.35 DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m

1. 4241 MILITARY ACADEMY (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4241 SALMON BREEZE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4241 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4241 CHUCKLES (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4241 FEAR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4241 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4241 LAROUS AURELIUS (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4241 MIDWINTER (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4241 PROFESSOR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 4241 REGAL BLUFF (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 4241 STRONG MAGIC (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Salmon Breeze is taken to return to his best and he is just preferred to Military Academy, although there is probably not a lot between the pair. Carlisle Breeze should not be left out of calculations, but the two prospects are probably stronger stables.

4.10 WADSWORTH NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

1. 4325 MEASURED OFFSTEEM (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4325 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4325 ANDY'S BIRTHDAY (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4325 CHUCKLES (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4325 FEAR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4325 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4325 LAROUS AURELIUS (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4325 MIDWINTER (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4325 PROFESSOR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 4325 REGAL BLUFF (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 4325 STRONG MAGIC (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Goodthyme Lady is obviously the one to beat after her good debut at last year's C&D but the bare facts are that she was easily out-paced in the first two runs and was giving 10lb from the winner. If there is an above-average newcomer in the field, Goodthyme Lady is unbeatable and she is the one to watch on paper as Wind A Topper, Chancel and Danzig Rose. The latter is bred to have ability and comes from a stable that has a good record in this type of contest.

FORM VERDICT

COOPER SMELLY, looks like a winner. He is good form on the AW circuit recently, he topped on a short course on a couple of occasions in the autumn but was a fair fourth in a winner on a good to soft going in November. Today's ground should suit him, and he is likely to score from the top. For Gold, who will certainly be at home on the going and remains on a handy mark.

3.05 JOHN BOOTLE MEMORIAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

1. 4025 DANIEL MANN (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4025 HANGING OUT TO DRY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4025 LOUGH LEIN SPIRIT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4025 OUT BY NIGHT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4025 DRAGON'S BAY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4025 JILL JOY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4025 EL COMPOSER (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4025 CHEVALIER (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4025 GALLANT LORD (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Minimum weight. That's No Answer (3.35) sent 248 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: White Breeze (2.00), Prairie Ind (2.30), Sumo (3.05), Children's Choice (3.35), Dragons Bay (3.35).

3.35 DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m

1. 4241 MILITARY ACADEMY (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4241 SALMON BREEZE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4241 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4241 CHUCKLES (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4241 FEAR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4241 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4241 LAROUS AURELIUS (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4241 MIDWINTER (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4241 PROFESSOR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 4241 REGAL BLUFF (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 4241 STRONG MAGIC (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Salmon Breeze is taken to return to his best and he is just preferred to Military Academy, although there is probably not a lot between the pair. Carlisle Breeze should not be left out of calculations, but the two prospects are probably stronger stables.

4.10 WADSWORTH NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

1. 4325 MEASURED OFFSTEEM (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4325 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4325 ANDY'S BIRTHDAY (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4325 CHUCKLES (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4325 FEAR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4325 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4325 LAROUS AURELIUS (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4325 MIDWINTER (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4325 PROFESSOR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 4325 REGAL BLUFF (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 4325 STRONG MAGIC (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Goodthyme Lady is obviously the one to beat after her good debut at last year's C&D but the bare facts are that she was easily out-paced in the first two runs and was giving 10lb from the winner. If there is an above-average newcomer in the field, Goodthyme Lady is unbeatable and she is the one to watch on paper as Wind A Topper, Chancel and Danzig Rose. The latter is bred to have ability and comes from a stable that has a good record in this type of contest.

FORM VERDICT

COOPER SMELLY, looks like a winner. He is good form on the AW circuit recently, he topped on a short course on a couple of occasions in the autumn but was a fair fourth in a winner on a good to soft going in November. Today's ground should suit him, and he is likely to score from the top. For Gold, who will certainly be at home on the going and remains on a handy mark.

3.05 JOHN BOOTLE MEMORIAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

1. 4025 DANIEL MANN (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4025 HANGING OUT TO DRY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4025 LOUGH LEIN SPIRIT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4025 OUT BY NIGHT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4025 DRAGON'S BAY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4025 JILL JOY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4025 EL COMPOSER (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4025 CHEVALIER (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4025 GALLANT LORD (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Minimum weight. That's No Answer (3.35) sent 248 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: White Breeze (2.00), Prairie Ind (2.30), Sumo (3.05), Children's Choice (3.35), Dragons Bay (3.35).

3.35 DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m

1. 4241 MILITARY ACADEMY (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4241 SALMON BREEZE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4241 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4241 CHUCKLES (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4241 FEAR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4241 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4241 LAROUS AURELIUS (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4241 MIDWINTER (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4241 PROFESSOR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 4241 REGAL BLUFF (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 4241 STRONG MAGIC (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Salmon Breeze is taken to return to his best and he is just preferred to Military Academy, although there is probably not a lot between the pair. Carlisle Breeze should not be left out of calculations, but the two prospects are probably stronger stables.

4.10 WADSWORTH NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

1. 4325 MEASURED OFFSTEEM (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4325 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4325 ANDY'S BIRTHDAY (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4325 CHUCKLES (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4325 FEAR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4325 CALANIE (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4325 LAROUS AURELIUS (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

8. 4325 MIDWINTER (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

9. 4325 PROFESSOR (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

10. 4325 REGAL BLUFF (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

11. 4325 STRONG MAGIC (14) G. J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

FORM VERDICT

Goodthyme Lady is obviously the one to beat after her good debut at last year's C&D but the bare facts are that she was easily out-paced in the first two runs and was giving 10lb from the winner. If there is an above-average newcomer in the field, Goodthyme Lady is unbeatable and she is the one to watch on paper as Wind A Topper, Chancel and Danzig Rose. The latter is bred to have ability and comes from a stable that has a good record in this type of contest.

FORM VERDICT

COOPER SMELLY, looks like a winner. He is good form on the AW circuit recently, he topped on a short course on a couple of occasions in the autumn but was a fair fourth in a winner on a good to soft going in November. Today's ground should suit him, and he is likely to score from the top. For Gold, who will certainly be at home on the going and remains on a handy mark.

3.05 JOHN BOOTLE MEMORIAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

1. 4025 DANIEL MANN (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

2. 4025 HANGING OUT TO DRY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

3. 4025 LOUGH LEIN SPIRIT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

4. 4025 OUT BY NIGHT (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

5. 4025 DRAGON'S BAY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

6. 4025 JILL JOY (10) J. O'Shea 6 10. Michael Brennan v

7. 4025 EL COMPOSER (10) J. O'Shea

Kidd turns his attention to Kinsella

THE BLACKBURN Rovers manager, Brian Kidd, has switched his transfer search to the Charlton Athletic midfielder, Mark Kinsella.

Kidd has opened negotiations for the Republic of Ireland international after giving up hope of persuading West Ham to sell their captain, Steve Lomas. Rovers badly need some midfield reinforcements because of an injury crisis - although they are not guaranteed to have much success with Kinsella either.

Blackburn are willing to pay about £3.5m but Charlton value

BY ALAN NIXON

their former Colchester United playmaker at closer to £5m.

With both clubs involved in the relegation tussle, Charlton will be reluctant to sell unless Rovers' offer is too good to refuse. Kidd is without Billy McKinlay and Garry Fittcroft in midfield, and has been trying for Lomas for the past fortnight.

Aston Villa have abandoned hopes of trying to sign the Celtic defender, Alan Stubbs, after the Scottish club refused to drop their £5.5m asking price.

The Villa manager, John

Gregory, has refused to increase his final offer of £4.25m for the former Bolton player. Now he is now looking elsewhere for a new centre-half. Ugo Ehiogu will be out of action for six weeks after undergoing a second operation yesterday to repair a fractured eye socket.

Sheffield Wednesday may have to wait another two weeks before learning whether the Dutch striker, Michael Mols, is Hillsborough-bound. They have made a £2.5m bid for the 27-year-old Utrecht striker, who is also being chased by Ajax and other top Dutch clubs.

Utrecht have issued Mols with a two-week deadline to either sign a new deal to add to his existing one with the club - which still has another 15 months to run - or to move on.

One man who wants to leave Hillsborough is the long-serving goalkeeper Kevin Pressman, who was upset at losing his place to Pavel Svrcek for Wednesday night's Premiership game against Wimbledon.

Nottingham Forest's latest recruit in their battle against relegation from the top flight is the former Scotland, Rangers and Tottenham defender

Richard Gough. The 37-year-old has arrived at the City Ground on loan from Major League Soccer. He played for San Jose Clash during the last United States season.

Steve Stone wants to leave Forest, however, because he feels the club have not matched his ambitions. "All I want to do is enjoy the second half of my career where I will be challenging for some cups, and playing in big games," the former England midfielder said.

Bradford City last night completed the signing of Dean Wass from Oxford United.

The 29-year-old former Hull City and Aberdeen striker will cost £950,000 plus a further £50,000 if the West Yorkshire side win promotion to the Premiership this season.

Middlesbrough's former England midfielder Paul Gascoigne has been given a one-match ban and fined £2,000 by the Football Association, after reaching 11 bookings this season.

Robbie O'Brien, a Republic of Ireland Under-18 international winger who was released by Middlesbrough earlier this season, has reportedly signed

a five-year contract with Juventus. He was recommended to the Italian club by the former Boro forward Paul Marston.

Liverpool's Rob Jones is facing a new knee operation that could cost him a huge financial deal at West Ham. The former England right-back has seen a specialist after breaking down in a reserve game - and the verdict is more surgery to repair the problem.

Jones could be out for the rest of the season. He is a free agent in the summer and has already had talks with West Ham about a lucrative contract, but that could now be in jeopardy until he recovers.

Manchester City's Georgian international defender Kakhaber Tkhadadze is to travel to Germany for a career-saving operation on a ruptured ligament. The 30-year-old central defender will be out until at least the start of next season, even if all goes well.

Alan Curshley has been named Carling "Manager of the Month" for February. The Charlton manager was given the award for leading his side on a four-game unbeaten run during the month.



Gianluca Pagliuca, the Internazionale goalkeeper, has a light show to distract him during a nervous night for his side at Old Trafford on Wednesday

David Ashdown

Palace not ripe for fan buy-out

BY NICK HARRIS

WHILE THE future of Crystal Palace hangs in the balance, the man responsible for one of the most successful rescue operations in recent football history said yesterday it is extremely unlikely that the Eagles fans will be able to play any part in saving their club.

"Fans' co-operatives are seen as irritants, there to be swatted like flies, unless they're an absolutely last resort," Trevor Watkins, the Bournemouth supporter-turned-chairman of such a co-operative, said yesterday.

"The situation at Crystal Palace is difficult because of the amount of money involved," Watkins added of Palace's debts, which are now understood to stand at £20m. Matters are further complicated, Watkins said, because Palace do not own their ground or even their training facilities. Both are still in the hands of the former owner, Ron Noades, and Watkins believes that, logically, Noades (now the owner of Brentford) will go back to Selhurst Park. "No one else can deal with it," Watkins said.

Watkins' own involvement in running a football club began in December 1996, when The Cherries were £5m in debt and 61 per cent of the club was owned by five unpopular individuals. Five members of the board resigned on legal advice, and the Inland Revenue, amongst other creditors, called for the club to be wound up. A month later, Bournemouth went into receivership, a step further than administration, the situation Palace find themselves in at the moment.

With administration, there is at least a grace period of some three months for a company to sort out its problems. With receivership, banks take control and attempt to sell the business for whatever it is worth.

At this point, in January 1997, Watkins, who had no experience of running any business, let alone a football club, starting a "fighting fund" to raise money to tide Bournemouth over. By June that year, he had raised some £500,000, had been joined by five like-minded fans at the helm of the co-op, and had put together a deal - costing £2.7m in total, backed by a loan from Lloyds bank - which would lead to supporter ownership. The Trust set up by the supporters now owns 51 per cent of the shares, all the board members from past regimes have gone, and Bournemouth has in place a plan that also sees its creditors paid back £77,500 each year.

"We actually took the business and made a profit in the first year," Watkins said, although he conceded that the sale of the club's captain, Matthew Holland, for £800,000 to Ipswich, had been crucial. "The time has come where we probably need to make another sale," Watkins added, but he said such moves were a small price to pay for a club now owned by the fans, accessible to the fans and accountable to the fans. Even the directors now pay for their own season tickets.

"Fans' co-operatives are certainly the cake people are looking to bake," said Watkins. His book, *Cherries in the Red*, will detail his experiences when published in April, and his advice has been sought by clubs as varied as Chester, Portsmouth, Oxford, Lincoln, Burnley, Hereford and Partick Thistle. "Whether you can do the same with different ingredients is questionable," he added. The head chef at Palace, it seems, could be Ron Noades.

United confidence grows with Beckham

THE MOOD emanating from Alex Ferguson as he pored over Manchester United's European Cup quarter-final first leg against Internazionale was confidence. "We'll score over there," he said. No equivocation. No doubts.

He was not indulging in amateur psychology aimed at his or the Inter players but was making a cold appraisal of the merits of the two teams. If he is right then United will go through to the semi-finals at the San Siro in a fortnight's time.

A goal for United - and you did not need to be the best modern manager in Britain to locate frailty in the much-vaunted Italian defence - will mean Inter will need four at home and, even if Ronaldo is fit, that is an unlikely and intimidating task.

Much hype has been circulating about Old Trafford's chances of conquering Europe this time but maybe luck, circumstance and talent are combining to allow Ferguson's time

BY GUY HODGSON

to come. At the very least, if United fall short this season there are no compelling reasons apart from not being good enough.

It was a theme picked up by Ferguson's captain, Roy Keane, as Wednesday turned to Thursday in an empty and echoing Old Trafford. "In the past we've either been too young, too inexperienced or had too many injuries but now we have to accept this is who we are. Tonight we began to show the maturity we've been searching for."

Importantly, rival teams are reaching that conclusion too. Inter, apart from a late flurry which should have yielded a goal, were disappointed but were forced into a shell by concern. They feared United's pace and fretted about Ryan Giggs and contorted their shape to counter both at the expense of their own flow.

Miroslav Kucsek withdrew

Youri Djorkaeff and Roberto Baggio to wide positions to cover the incursions of United's full-backs, but while the former supplemented Javier Zanetti to curtail Giggs, the latter's idea of tracking back was half-hearted at best.

The consequence was Aron Winter, a midfield player rather than a full-back, was frequently confronted by two players, Gary Neville and David Beckham. The answer would have been for the centre-back Francesco Colaninno to move across to aid Winter but Inter were so conscious of their aerial inability they did not have the confidence to let Giuseppe Bergomi and Fabio Galante go on one with Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke.

The outcome was not edifying for anyone who has admired the rugged obduracy of past Italian teams. Beckham, who Ferguson described as the best crosser in Europe, was free to torture Inter with a series of precise arcs that led to two

headed goals for Yorke and would have provided another for Cole but for an exceptional save from Gianluca Pagliuca.

Inter will devise a system to counter Beckham at the San Siro but his priorities will be different and more defensive there and United will be hitting on the break. Cue the pace of Giggs and Cole primed by Yorke's cleverness and the reason why Ferguson is so confident.

Yorke, who now has 24 goals this season, had arguably his best match for United while if Peter Schmeichel is still going through a crisis in confidence then he is going to freeze forwards with apprehension when he casts off his doubts, but it was Beckham who had Ferguson drooling.

"We gave him a rest for three weeks over the New Year and he's benefited from that," the United manager said. "There's a great freshness about his game and he's back to his peak performance, posing questions for every team he

meets. He is an outstanding central midfielder player but until I get someone who can cross the ball as well as that he'll stay on the right wing."

Ferguson has been criticised for rotating his squad but, as he pointed out on Wednesday, Beckham, Schmeichel, Gary Neville and Paul Scholes have had rests this season and all but the last, who flickered rather than shone, were outstanding against Inter.

Given the attention on Beckham, who was meeting Diego Simeone for the first time since his infamous sending off playing for England in the World Cup, it was a remarkable performance and one, glory be, that might be a sign of his growing up.

If you give him the benefit of the doubt that he did not flick out at Simeone in the first half and was merely spun round by the momentum of his tackle, it was a composed performance from Beckham, who was gracious enough to exchange

colours and smiles with his St Etienne nemesis at the end.

"I decided before the game it would be a nice idea to swap shirts with Simeone," Beckham said. "There's been a lot about me and a lot about him, there's been a lot of hype, but I have learned to get on with my life. I don't listen to what people say about me."

"It was a good night for me with two good crosses but the great thing for me is with Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole, one is always spinning away from the other and that means you've always got something to aim for. They make it easy for me."

Inter and luck made it easier for United, too, because there seemed little wrong with Simeone's disallowed goal and Ferguson's satisfaction would have been soured if Henning Berg had not cleared off the line from Colaninno in injury time.

"We will have to look at why those things happened towards the end," Ferguson said refus-

ing to gloss over his side's deficiencies on a night of shuddering commitment where excitement might have dulled his critical faculties. "We can get better. I thought we were fragmented at times and the tempo of our passing could have been better."

Both faults stemmed from an unsure grip on concentration, which is United's enduring weakness, and if Ferguson can acquire an improvement in that department, there will be genuine reasons for optimism.

Inter have twice overcome two-goal deficits against English sides - against Liverpool in 1965 and Aston Villa nine years ago - but there was little on Wednesday to suggest they will do the same on 17 March. With or without Ronaldo.

Ryan Giggs broke his nose in a collision with Javier Zanetti late in the game, but the injury is not expected to exclude him from Sunday's FA Cup quarter-final against Chelsea.

Grayson sparks England win. Trouble for Toshack

AT HAYES on Tuesday the England semi-professional side did what was beyond Glenn Hoddle's senior team in the qualifiers for the last World Cup - they beat Italy.

On a mostly waterlogged pitch which would surely have been declared unplayable if the opposition had travelled from, say, Romford instead of Rome, England fully deserved their 4-1 win over the Italian Serie C Under-21 side. Stronger and more experienced, the home team adapted far better to the conditions and produced a display full of purpose and commitment.

Cheltenham Town's Neil Grayson was rewarded for a hard-working performance up front for England with two fine goals, one a diving header and the other a shot calmly lifted over the Italian goalkeeper.

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

After Grayson's strikes early in each half, England took a three-goal lead when Thierry Cavazzana slid the ball into his own net under pressure from Dale Watkins. Hayes' Lee Charles delighted the home crowd by leaping high to head in a fourth goal before Vincenzo Iaquinta's well-struck shot provided the Italians with a deserved consolation goal.

In recent years, the England semi-pro side has provided some distinguished graduates, such as Leicester's Steve Guppy, Birmingham's Paul Furlong and West Bromwich Albion's Lee Hughes. A similar supply of young talent from the current England team

seems much less likely though, due to the selection by the manager, John Owens, of a number of experienced former Football League players.

Grayson, formerly of Northampton and Chesterfield, was joined in the England side by Mark Yates (Cheltenham, ex-Birmingham), Warren Patmore (Newell, ex-Northampton), Gary Butterworth (Rushden, ex-Peterborough), Gary Patterson (Kingstonian, ex-Shrewsbury) and Andy Connyn (Hednesford, ex-Aston Villa, Derby and Plymouth). All are unlikely to return to League football.

When it was put to Owens that his representative side might be better served by players with more of a genuine non-League background, he said: "The selection criteria is not fixed. There is no age limit and I want to mould the squad

into a team fit to represent England." The manager added that Grayson had been "full of energy and enthusiasm" and, like his team-mates, was eager to play for his country - an opinion that the watching Cheltenham manager, Steve Cottrell, proudly agreed with.

"I thought Grayson was outstanding and, for me, he was vying with Butterworth for man of the match," Cottrell said. England have two more internationals this season: away to the Netherlands on 30 March in Genemuiden and a home game at a venue not yet fixed against Wales on 23 May.

REAL MADRID's Clarence Seedorf and Fernando Hierro were involved in a dressing-room fracas after their side's 1-1 home draw with Dynamo Kiev in the European Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday.

According to Spanish newspapers, the two internationals came to blows and had to be pulled apart by their team-mates. The argument between two senior players capped a hugely disappointing night for the European champions, who fell behind to Andriy Shevchenko's opportunistic strike on 54 minutes before salvaging a draw through a Predrag Mijatovic free-kick 12 minutes later. The incident served notice to Real's new coach, John Toshack, that not all the problems at the troubled club are on the field.

Hierro, the team vice-cap-

tain, clashed with the Dutch international in the first half of Wednesday's game when the two argued over who should take a free-kick.

Toshack made no comment on the incident, preferring to concentrate on the side's performance which, as the Welshman admitted, also displayed a worrying lack of team spirit. "The players have got to be more intelligent," Toshack said. "Some of them have too fixed an idea of how to use the ball and that can't continue. We've got to carry on working on this. We were far too individual."

Toshack remains confident of progressing to the semi-finals. But he will clearly need to do something about the lack of discipline being shown by his senior players. The flare-up between Hierro and Seedorf is not the first time the Dutchman has

clashed with a team-mate. In Tokyo, during preparations for the Intercontinental Cup match against the Brazilian club Vasco da Gama, Seedorf and the Real defender, Ivan Campo, were caught on camera fighting. Seedorf was also involved in another televised row in January as he and Mijatovic traded insults during the 4-0 defeat at Deportivo La Coruña.

Toshack, who was persuaded to come back to Madrid in place of Gurus Hiddink last month, received the backing of the club president, Lorenzo Sanz, in his decision to substitute the under-performing Seedorf. "The coach has demonstrated that he doesn't have favourites on the field," Sanz said. "When a player, whatever his name is, isn't playing well it seems to me perfect that he is taken off."

nsella Barnsley need a polished display

Palace not ripe for fan buy-out

By Nick Harris

WHILE THE future of Crystal Palace hangs in the balance, the club's most successful manager in recent years, Ian Holloway, has been told that he will be able to buy out his contract.

Holloway, who has been at Palace since 1995, is currently on a two-year contract. He has led the club to two promotions and a play-off, but the club is currently in a financial crisis.

The club's financial problems have led to speculation that Holloway might be able to buy out his contract. However, it is not clear if this is a realistic possibility.

Holloway has been a success at Palace, but the club's financial problems have led to speculation that he might be able to buy out his contract. However, it is not clear if this is a realistic possibility.

Holloway has been a success at Palace, but the club's financial problems have led to speculation that he might be able to buy out his contract. However, it is not clear if this is a realistic possibility.

Holloway has been a success at Palace, but the club's financial problems have led to speculation that he might be able to buy out his contract. However, it is not clear if this is a realistic possibility.

John Hendrie believes that, like last year, his team can earn their spurs in the Cup. By Guy Hodgson

YOU CAN measure how long it is since a club won the FA Cup, not just in years but in micro-millimetres on the old trophy itself. Bright and bold is the engraving for winners in the Eighties and early Nineties but names faded into the silverwork the further you travel.

You can just still make out the word Barnsley but only just. It is, after all, nearly 90 years since the club beat West Bromwich Albion in the 1912 final and scores of polishers have been slowly wiping away the evidence as time has erased memories.

The Cup was at Oakwell yesterday doing a pre-quarter-final grand tour and cynics would sneer it is the closest that Barnsley will get to the trophy this season given that they meet the resurgent Tottenham tomorrow. Certainly it is the nearest their player-manager, John Hendrie, has ever been.

It is a curiosity that in a career spanning 17 years with Coventry, Bradford, Newcastle, Leeds and Middlesbrough, he had to wait until the age of 34 before he reached the quarter-finals of the Cup. Now, with his appearances limited to virtually none he has got there again.

"Oh last year," he replied without the slightest hesitation when asked what was his most cherished Cup memory. "I had never scored against Manchester United so to get a goal at Old Trafford and then again here in the replay was a big high."

"It was particularly special as I had a lot of family from Scotland. My mum and dad were at the Old Trafford game and they are knocking on a wee bit so that was a big highlight."

Hendrie became manager much to his own surprise last July when he arrived back from holiday and found urgent messages waiting for him from the Barnsley chairman, John Dennis. Danny Wilson had decided to leave the club for Sheffield Wednesday and he was asked to fill the breach.

Some void it was, because Wilson had become more than just a football manager in his four-year spell at Barnsley. He had guided them to their first appearance in the top division in their history and, although they were relegated straight away, his reputation had remained intact. Hendrie's position was akin to being the act that followed Salome's dance.

At the same press conference, though, Ronseaux announced that all would be retained but Lara would on probation for two Tests to straighten himself out. It has done little to improve the Board's image in the dressing room.

In the interim, the middle-order batting was decimated by the unavailability of Shynearne Chanderpaul and Carl Hooper. Chanderpaul is covering from torn ligaments in his right shoulder and will not be ready until the second Test next week. Hooper is with his seriously-ill infant son and his Australian wife in Adelaide.

Lara has only just got the all-clear on a chipped bone just above his right wrist, a painful legacy of South Africa, while the veteran fast bowlers Curtisly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, for so long the spearheads of the attack, have been resting ageing hamstring muscles pulled in South Africa in readiness for what is likely to be their final campaign. None has played a first-class match for six weeks.

The situation was so confused that the selectors chose a squad of 15 to cover all eventualities, five of them new to Test cricket. They recalled Jimmy Adams and Roland Holder for their first Test in a year to fill the middle-order vacancies.



John Hendrie finds himself as close as he has ever been to the FA Cup at Oakwell yesterday

David Ashdown

"You can't live in the shadows of anyone," Hendrie said. "Danny's time here was an era and I was part of that era but you have to do things your own way."

Had players been slow to adapt from his transformation from colleague to boss? "It was no problem for me," he said, "and if anyone thought on those lines they haven't a chance under me. I'm the manager - they have to accept it."

Hendrie's appointment partly helped galvanise season-ticket sales and some 14,000 were purchased. But the campaign has not been a raging

success. Neil Redfern and Ashley Ward have been transferred and Barnsley have been beset with so many injuries that a dozen of his first-team squad have required surgery this season and 18 different striking combinations have been tried.

Dreams of an instant return to the Premiership have receded in a spell in which they have scored in only one of their last eight League games, so the FA Cup, like last season, is a last refuge in the chase for acclaim.

Wednesday's First Division match against Bradford City could have been their season in a microcosm. They lost 1-0,

had a goal disallowed - "I've watched it on the video and there's no way it's offside" - and, of course a player was injured, Peter Markstedt.

All of which is hardly the best preparation for meeting Tottenham who have gone from the bumbling giants ripe for the killing they duly received at Oakwell in the fourth round last season to the most successful cup team in England. But managers are paid to be optimistic and Hendrie is.

"I was encouraged by the Bradford game," he said. "I had a right go after Sunday's performance against Crystal

Palace [Barnsley lost 1-0] because it wasn't good enough but on Wednesday we gave our all. OK, we didn't have that craft, that finishing quality, but we created some chances which is positive."

"I told the players, 'I don't want any heads down in here I want to see you nice, chirpy and positive tomorrow because Saturday's a massive game for you and I want you to enjoy it. There's no pressure on you.'"

As for Spurs, Hendrie concedes the task will be harder tomorrow than it was last time. "They're a smashing team, he said. "George Graham is a fantastic manager who has made them very tough to beat. We have to perform to our maximum ability and hopefully they're a wee bit under on the day because, let's face it, they've got the better players."

One of the home players might be Hendrie himself, albeit as a substitute. "I want to be involved," he said, "and if I was just a player I would be but there's so much to do as manager. I had to miss training this morning, for example, but if it comes down to me and the laundry lady I might get a shout." Providing she is still polishing the Cup, of course.

West Indies welcome wet weather Maddy puts tourists on top

RAIN CLOUDS hovered ominously over Port-of-Spain most of yesterday and left the outfield at the Queen's Park Oval soggy and underfoot to threaten the start of the West Indies' first Test against Australia here today.

The downpours, more of which are forecast over the next three days, were welcomed by cynical, if not entirely unrealistic, fans here who regard the weather as the only hope of the West Indies escaping from the match with a draw. Talk of victory around these parts is taken with the same scepticism as politicians' promise of full employment.

Teenager shows his class on Test debut

PAI. ITAN'S TEENAGE batting talent, the 18-year-old Imran Nazir, scored a polished 84 on his debut on the rain-marred opening day of Pakistan's Asian Test Championship match against Sri Lanka yesterday.

Imran shared in a second-wicket stand of 105 with Waqarullah Wasti, who was left unbeaten on 80 when bad light forced an early close, with Pakistan on 192 for 3 after Wasim Akram had won the toss and elected to bat first.

Waqarullah, playing in only his second Test, has faced 187 balls so far and has struck 12 fours.

At the same press conference, though, Ronseaux announced that all would be retained but Lara would on probation for two Tests to straighten himself out. It has done little to improve the Board's image in the dressing room.

In the interim, the middle-order batting was decimated by the unavailability of Shynearne Chanderpaul and Carl Hooper. Chanderpaul is covering from torn ligaments in his right shoulder and will not be ready until the second Test next week. Hooper is with his seriously-ill infant son and his Australian wife in Adelaide.

Lara has only just got the all-clear on a chipped bone just above his right wrist, a painful legacy of South Africa, while the veteran fast bowlers Curtisly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, for so long the spearheads of the attack, have been resting ageing hamstring muscles pulled in South Africa in readiness for what is likely to be their final campaign. None has played a first-class match for six weeks.

The situation was so confused that the selectors chose a squad of 15 to cover all eventualities, five of them new to Test cricket. They recalled Jimmy Adams and Roland Holder for their first Test in a year to fill the middle-order vacancies.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Imran Nazir, 18, is a right-handed batsman and a right-arm fast bowler. He is the youngest player to ever play Test cricket for Pakistan.

Smyth sweeps clear of field

GOLF
BY NORMAN DABELL
in Penina, Portugal

THE FORMER Ryder Cup player, Des Smyth, struck a blow for the veterans yesterday when he fashioned a two-shot lead in the first round of the Algarve Open.

The 46-year-old Irishman, whose last European Tour success was the 1993 Madrid Open, had birdies at five of the first six holes, two of them with chip-ins, on the way to a six-under-par 66.

It was the lowest return on a course trimmed from par 73 to 72 but failed to count as a record because preferred lies were in operation on the sodden fairways.

Even though the wet weather has produced a long course, a trusty "broom-handle" putter left Smyth two better than a pack of six - the South African Retief Goosen, Japan's Katsuyoshi Tsumori, Swede Fredrik Jacobson, Spaniards Santiago Luna and Miguel Jimenez and Frenchman Jean van de Velde.

The long-handled club paid handsome dividends for Smyth as he needed only 11 putts going out and 13 coming home - three from off the green.

After several ups and downs last year and a poor start this year, the genial Irishman now has his feet on the ground.

"Today was a real blast from the past for me," Smyth said. "But tournaments are over 72 holes. If I'm still up there with nine holes to go on Sunday I will not be making it to win."

"But making the cut will be a relief after missing out both times this year so far. I only kept my card by two places and about £1,500 last year and I don't want that kind of worry again this year. I think I've scored myself into this score. I feel like a hare being chased by a lot of greyhounds, knowing I can't get away from them still for another four years when I join the seniors. But I just love being competitive. It's where I get my buzz."

Scotland's Sam Torrance, 45, was another veteran on song, returning after a five-week injury lay-off to shoot a 69.

Goosen was playing only his second event this year after breaking his left arm in a skiing accident on 2 January.

European rankings leader David Howell had a disappointing 74, while the defending champion Peter Mitchell carded 71. Their English compatriot Justin Rose shot 71 to give himself a chance of making his first cut at the 15th attempt as a professional.

ALGARVE OPEN (Penina, Portugal) First-round scores (GB or Irl unless specified): 66 D Smyth, 68 R Goosen (SA), M Jimenez (Sp), K Tsumori (Jpn), S Luna (Sp), P Jacobson (Swe), J Van de Velde (Fr), 69 F Goosen (S), S Torrance (S), M Scarpa (It), R Narissoon (Swe), 70 S Webster, J Putter (Fr), J Garbutt, S May (US), R Wimmerer, T J O'Connell, P Lawrie, A Coltart, A Cella (Ger), P Fuke (US), A Watt, J Blackford, P Boush, P Mitchell, C Hainline (US), T Jorenst (Ltn), M Jonzon (Swe), H Clark, J Rose, C Cas (Sp), R Wimmerer, P Alfieri, R J Derksen (Ned), P Eales, J Quirps (Sp), M Campbell (Fr), 72 S Henderson, M Pionnet (It), V Phillips, F Lindgren (Swe), D Borsari (Slo), C Whitlock (SA), 73 P Hadden (Fr), J Jarmann, R Jacquelin (Fr), J M Aruti (Sp), G Evans, R Gonzalez (Arg), M Tummelsh (S), L Lane, I Pyman, P Hedstrom (Swe), M R Lawrence, A Scrimm (Por), A Cabrera (Arg), J Mellor, JP Claus (Fr), S Bennett, 73 G Orr, T Levett (Fr), J Serrati (Arg), A McLary (SA), J Lara (Sp), S Gallacher, H Nyström (Swe), D Hospital (Sp), 74 S Torrance, P Alfieri, R J Derksen (Ned), P Eales, J Quirps (Sp), M Campbell (Fr), 75 A Sherborne, S Hansen (Den), B Davis, A Beal, G Horquieul (US), R Wimmerer, P Alfieri, R J Derksen (Ned), P Eales, J Quirps (Sp), P Harrison, D Chopra (Sri), F Torrance (Fr), D Howell, M Angier (Swe), J Spencer, T Gossie (S), R Drummond, J Caceres (Arg), D Robertson.

* denotes amateur



SPORT

HENDRIE'S WEMBLEY WISH P29 • MAGGS THE DEMOLITION MAN P25



Noades cast as Palace saviour

CRYSTAL PALACE'S debts stand at £20m, twice the level previously estimated, it was revealed last night. The news makes the return of Ron Noades, the club's previous owner, more likely, especially if Mark Goldberg, Palace's chairman, cannot find substantial funds within the next three months to bail out the club. Noades himself said yesterday that he believed Palace were likely to move from administration to receivership soon, and he added that he could not rule out the possibility of a return to the club.

FOOTBALL
BY NICK HARRIS

the club to solve its financial problems. Estimates had put Palace's debts at £9m, but sources close to the club said yesterday the figure was £20m. Up to £5m of this debt is understood to be unpaid transfer fees owed to a variety of clubs and which were staggered in instalment payments. Palace are thought to owe substantial sums to Juventus and Strasbourg for the multi-million pound transfers of Attilio Lombardo and Michele Padovano from Italy, and Valeriu Ismael from France last season. Aston Villa and Liverpool may also

still be owed money from the purchases of Sasa Curcic for £1m and Nicky Rizzo for £300,000 respectively. As well as the transfers, a substantial sum is said to be owed to the Midland Bank - understood to be the club's main creditor - and money is still owed to Noades. When Goldberg bought the club for £22.8m last year, he borrowed nearly £5m from Noades to help finance the deal, and also oversaw Palace taking out an option to buy Selhurst Park for £10m from Noades, who still owns the ground. Goldberg must pay £600,000 in May just to keep the option of purchasing the ground open, otherwise he risks losing that option. Noades - who also still owns

Palace's training ground and both the club shops - said yesterday that he could not envisage Goldberg ever being in a position to buy Selhurst Park from him. He added, however, that he would have no interest in selling Selhurst Park to other prospective buyers (including Wimbledon, Palace's tenants), even if Goldberg did not retain his option to buy it. "As far as I'm concerned I will not allow anything to happen that will disadvantage Crystal Palace," Noades said. "The Selhurst Park ground is there for Crystal Palace to play on," he added. "I would not approve the transfer of the lease to Wimbledon."

When asked what he thought the prospects for Palace were in the near future, he said: "It will go into receivership." Asked whether there was any possibility that he might return to the club in that situation, Noades said that he was happy trying to secure promotion from the Third Division for the club he now owns, Brentford. He added, however: "In football you don't discount anything."

The arrival of the administrators means that Palace are protected from creditors seeking winding-up orders for the next three months, but large question marks remain over the future of the club. Many of the first-team squad are likely to be put up for sale and there may also be wage cuts and redundancies among the non-playing staff.

Goldberg has attempted to portray the arrival of the administrators in a positive light, insisting that their help will ensure that the club emerges "fitter, healthier and more efficient" from the experience. He said yesterday that he was ready to sell some of his 85 per cent majority stake in the club, although he is not yet willing to surrender overall control. It is difficult to imagine, however, just who might be likely to want to buy any of Goldberg's shares if they are not ensured a major say in the running of the club, especially as those shares are technically worthless until the club emerges from administration.

A London-based company, Tramp Oil, are supposed to have increased their investment in the club over recent months but it is understood that the firm have simply lent the club money to cover sums still to be received from the sales of players such as Dean Gordon and Paul Warhurst. That cash is repayable, while income at Selhurst Park, with season ticket and TV revenue having been swallowed up at the start of the season, is not thought to be nearly sufficient - without substantial transfer revenue - to cover wage costs. Goldberg's own finances have, meanwhile, become stretched over the past year following a massive downturn in the share price of his computer recruitment business.

Wimbledon to battle on 'for Kinnear'

WIMBLEDON HAVE pledged to continue their European push after Joe Kinnear's heart attack scare.

BY MATT BARLOW

Kinnear, the Dons' manager, was in a stable and comfortable condition yesterday after he was rushed to hospital with chest pains shortly before Wednesday's 2-1 Premiership win at Sheffield Wednesday. Wimbledon were stunned by the scare but players and staff called for business as usual. The managing director, Sam Hammam, stayed in Sheffield after the game and Kinnear's wife, Bonnie, headed north, while the first-team coaches David Kemp and Mick Harford took over team affairs.

Kinnear, 52, has been chatting with staff on the cardiac ward of the Northern General. A hospital spokesman said yesterday: "Joe is still under observation and he will be with us certainly for the next 24 hours. We've been monitoring him all the time he's been in here and will continue to do that."

Kemp said: "Obviously it all came as a bit of a shock but I was very pleased with the way the lads responded against Sheffield Wednesday. Footballers tend to be a very resilient breed and they all performed very professionally." Elan Ekoku and Marcus Gayle scored as the Dons gave their manager a lift with three points. "The players have had a day off and we'll try and continue as normally as possible under the circumstances. We've just got to get on with it," Kemp said.

The defender Kenny Cunningham wished his manager a speedy recovery on behalf of the players. He hoped to see Kinnear back on the training ground as soon as possible but said his health was of paramount importance. Kinnear had been taken ill after the team arrived at Hillsborough. The Wimbledon boss had given his preliminary match talk at the hotel and announced the team. It was as the players were coming into the changing room, about an hour before kick-off, that their manager became unwell. Cunningham said: "It was obvious the gaffer was suffering some kind of discomfort. Initial suggestions were that it was indigestion. There was no panic about the place."



Kris King (left) of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Sheldon Souray of the New Jersey Devils come to blows during an NHL match in Toronto

Reuters

Botham in Sri Lankan puzzle

SRI LANKA'S bid to hang on to their title as one-day world champions, appeared to have received a timely boost after the president of the Cricket Board, Thilanga Sumathipala, announced that Ian Botham had signed a two-year contract as bowling coach. Unfortunately, the coup de theatre was short-lived and Botham later denied any knowledge of the deal. Botham, who is in Ireland on a golfing trip, said he had first seen the news on Teletext yesterday morning. "I was approached nine months ago, but I've heard nothing since," he said. "I've certainly not signed any contract," a fact later confirmed by Botham's lawyer, Nimesh Desai. Speaking on Radio 5 Live, Desai said that "Ian was as confused as everyone else." Earlier in the day, the same radio station had Sumathipala claiming that Botham was all set to start.

CRICKET
BY DEREK PRINGLE

Politics tends to play a big part in sport overseas, and it now appears that Sumathipala's claim to having secured Botham's services, was little more than a wheeze to secure his re-election as president of the Sri Lanka Cricket Board. If such a fabrication sounds drastic it is, because the country's president, Mrs Chandika Kumarathunga, acting on allegations that Sumathipala has

contacts in the world of book-making (not actually illegal in Sri Lanka), would like her favourite uncle, Clifford Ratwatte, instead to be installed. As nominations close today, Sumathipala obviously decided to play his trump card, though Botham's subsequent denial has made it look more like a joke.

In any case Botham, a commentator with Sky, is a busy man. With another length of Britain charity walk for

Leukaemia Research scheduled for the autumn, any coaching would have been intermittent at best. Ironically, it is not the first time Botham's name has been linked with Sri Lanka. Four years ago he was offered the coaching job, a post he declined. Underestimated, Sri Lanka's response was to go on and win the last World Cup in trail-blazing style. Their defence of that trophy begins against England at Lord's on 14 May.

McMillan blow for Kiwis England able to win World Cup - Gough

NEW ZEALAND'S hopes of beating South Africa in the remaining two Tests of their series were dealt a major setback yesterday when their key batsman, Craig McMillan, was ruled out of both matches with a broken left hand. McMillan was struck by Jacques Kallis in the penultimate over before the first Test ended in a tame draw in Auckland on Wednesday. The hard-hitting right hander, who has a batting average of just below 50 after 11 Tests, did not think the injury was serious until yesterday morning when the pain had not receded. "He had it X-rayed this morning and a fracture of the head of the fifth metacarpal was revealed. The hand is in plaster and the injury is expected to prevent him from playing for the next three to four weeks," the team physiotherapist, Mark Harrison, said yesterday.

New Zealand might be able to replace McMillan with their captain Stephen Fleming who has not played for a month, but has recovered sufficiently from groin surgery to be provisionally named in the Canterbury side to face Otago in a four-day game starting today. If Fleming declares himself fit after playing, McMillan's injury might not be crucial. If he does not, the home side's batting will be very thin.

South Africa play a three-day game against a New Zealand A team in Lincoln beginning tomorrow as preparation for the second Test which starts at Lancaster Park next Thursday. Pat Symcox, the veteran South African off-spinner, yesterday announced his retirement from the international arena, despite being named in his country's provisional 19-strong World Cup squad. Symcox has decided his poor form in the recent one-day series in New Zealand means it is time to withdraw his name before the final 15 are announced. Symcox will be 39 by the time the tournament takes place and he feels he can no longer compete at the highest level.

DARREN GOUGH has backed England for World Cup glory on home turf this summer. The tournament gets underway in May, and England's premier strike bowler believes his country can win the event for the first time, despite the disappointing end to their limited-overs campaign in Australia. Gough sees home advantage as the key to success. "I don't think England are underdogs. We're one of the top four teams in the world and we believe we can win," he said. "Home advantage will play a big part and it will help us. I think we've only been beaten in a one-day series once in about

five years at home, but there are other countries that are going to do well here. "South Africa are going to be the team to beat. Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan will be there or thereabouts, and we'll be in that pack as one of the favourites." Gough returned from Australia with his reputation enhanced and he isn't upset at the end. "We did well in Australia until the last six games, and they were all close. We made mistakes in them but we didn't get really beaten, if you know what I mean. We lost due to a few little mistakes," Gough added.

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD
No.3862 Friday 5 March by Mass

Thursday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98
99	100	101	102	103	104	105
106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119
120	121	122	123	124	125	126
127	128	129	130	131	132	133
134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147
148	149	150	151	152	153	154
155	156	157	158	159	160	161
162	163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174	175
176	177	178	179	180	181	182
183	184	185	186	187	188	189
190	191	192	193	194	195	196
197	198	199	200	201	202	203
204	205	206	207	208	209	210
211	212	213	214	215	216	217
218	219	220	221	222	223	224
225	226	227	228	229	230	231
232	233	234	235	236	237	238
239	240	241	242	243	244	245
246	247	248	249	250	251	252
253	254	255	256	257	258	259
260	261	262	263	264	265	266
267	268	269	270	271	272	273
274	275	276	277	278	279	280
281	282	283	284	285	286	287
288	289	290	291	292	293	294
295	296	297	298	299	300	301
302	303	304	305	306	307	308
309	310	311	312	313	314	315
316	317	318	319	320	321	322
323	324	325	326	327	328	329
330	331	332	333	334	335	336
337	338	339	340	341	342	343
344	345	346	347	348	349	350
351	352	353	354	355	356	357
358	359	360	361	362	363	364
365	366	367	368	369	370	371
372	373	374	375	376	377	378
379	380	381	382	383	384	385
386	387	388	389	390	391	392
393	394	395	396	397	398	399
400	401	402	403	404	405	406
407	408	409	410	411	412	413
414	415	416	417	418	419	420
421	422	423	424	425	426	427
428	429	430	431	432	433	434
435	436	437	438	439	440	441
442	443	444	445	446	447	448
449	450	451	452	453	454	455
456	457	458	459	460	461	462
463	464	465	466	467	468	469
470	471	472	473	474	475	476
477	478	479	480	481	482	483
484	485	486	487	488	489	490
491	492	493	494	495	496	497
498	499	500	501	502	503	504
505	506	507	508	509	510	511
512	513	514	515	516	517	518
519	520	521	522	523	524	525
526	527	528	529	530	531	532
533	534	535	536	537	538	539
540	541	542	543	544	545	546
547	548	549	550	551	552	553
554	555	556	557	558	559	560
561	562	563	564	565	566	567
568	569	570	571	572	573	574
575	576	577	578	579	580	581
582	583	584	585	586	587	588
589	590	591	592	593	594	595
596	597	598	599	600	601	602
603	604	605	606	607	608	609
610	611	612	613	614	615	616
617	618	619	620	621	622	623
624	625	626	627	628	629	630
631	632	633	634	635	636	637
638	639	640	641	642	643	644
645	646	647	648	649	650	651
652	653	654	655	656	657	658
659	660	661	662	663	664	665
666	667	668	669	670	671	672
673	674	675	676	677	678	679
680	681	682	683	684	685	686
687	688	689	690	691	692	693
694	695	696	697	698	699	700
701	702	703	704	705	706	707
708	709	710	711	712	713	714
715	716	717	718	719	720	721
722	723	724	725	726	727	728
729	730	731	732	733	734	735
736	737	738	739	740	741	742
743	744	745	746	747	748	749
750	751	752	753	754	755	756
757	758	759	760	761	762	763
764	765	766	767	768	769	770
771	772	773	774	775	776	777
778	779	780	781	782	783	784
785	786	787	788	789	790	791
792	793	794	795	796	797	798
799	800	801	802	803	804	805
806	807	808	809	810	811	812
813	814	815	816	817	818	819
820	821	822	823	824	825	826
827	828	829	830	831	832	833
834	835	836	837	838	839	840
841	842	843	844	845	846	847
848	849	850	851	852	853	854
855	856	857	858	859	860	861
862	863	864	865	866	867	868
869	870	871	872	873	874	875
876	877	878	879	880	881	882
883	884	885	886	887	888	889
890	891	892	893	894	895	896
897	898	899	900	901	902	903
904	905	906	907	908	909	910
911	912	913	914	915	916	917
918	919	920	921	922	923	924
925	926	927	928	929	930	931
932	933	934	935	936	937	938
939	940	941	942	943	944	945
946	947	948	949	950	951	952
953	954	955	956	957	958	959
960	961	962	963			

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Tonight, Trevor McDonald will be miked and



powdered to read News at Ten for the final time.



The news has yet to sink in. How will we cope?



(Read Tennyson, suggests Trevor, helpfully)

At the start of the Woody Allen film *Broadway Danny Rose*, a bunch of old-timers sit round a table in New York's Carnegie Deli, swapping their favourite stories about the legendary theatrical agent Danny Rose.

Behind the scenes at *News at Ten* these past few weeks, "Brandy" Reggie Bosanquet has inspired similar outpourings of nostalgia. Reggie smirking at the item about the firemen who rescued a cat from a tree and then backed their fire engine over it. Reggie's toupée. Reggie missing vital instructions from the gallery. Reggie getting pissed.

Actually, my own favourite *News at Ten* story has nothing to do with the late, great Reginald Bosanquet, newscaster from 1967 to 1979, but with the rather less colourful John Suchet. Twenty years ago, Suchet was dispatched to Iran to report on the American hostage crisis. Unhelpfully, Ayatollah Khomeini had banned foreign journalists from entering the country, so Suchet had a fake passport and a batch of business cards made up, describing him as a dealer in Persian carpets. His resourcefulness paid off. He got to Tehran, stayed for a month reporting the story, and returned to London, where he learned that the Ayatollah had, some weeks before, ordered the execution of all Persian carpet dealers for profiteering at the expense of the state.

And now the ayatollahs who run ITV have ordered the execution of *News at Ten*. Tonight, after 32 years, it bongs its last. From next Monday, Trevor McDonald is taking his bongs to the *News at 6.30*, which will make his final "And finally..." at around 10.27 tonight almost unbearably poignant. Well, quite poignant, anyway.

Rather like the Iranians in 1979, ITV has issued a ban on outside journalists. The press will not be allowed to sit in on the valedictory *News at Ten*, and there's probably no point trying to get in

posing as a carpet dealer. But on Tuesday night I was given a warm welcome at the grand ITN offices on Gray's Inn Road in central London, home of *Channel 4 News* and *5 News* on Channel 5, as well as all the bulletins for ITV. This, when you think about it, is bizarre. As I have noted before, for the same news organisation to produce the highbrow *Channel 4 News* and its lowbrow counterpart on Channel 5 is tantamount to the same Mrs Gascoigne giving birth to both Bamber and Paul.

Anyway, at 8.08pm I was collected from the impressive ITN foyer by Trevor McDonald himself, who ushered me into his office and, slightly surreally, began reading to me from a book of Philip Larkin's collected poems. "It is these sunless afternoons I find/ install you at my elbow like a bore," he said. I don't think he meant me.

McDonald is something of a poetry fiend. When we discussed the fuss generated by the controversial decision to chop *News at Ten*, he quoted Tennyson: "Faction seldom rises head,"

Peculiar or not, ITN is shedding a powerful brand name. "Morse comes close, but I think you'll find that *News at Ten* has the biggest share of ABC1 viewers of any ITV programme," a former ITN hand told me. "Privately, a lot of people at ITN are still pretty upset about it going, but they will never say so publicly. They are all strictly on-message."

An on-message Trevor McDonald put it slightly differently. "We wouldn't want anyone else to appropriate our pain," he said. "We are the ones who've worked here for years. But we now have a series of new challenges. And ITV has invested enormously in the new current affairs programme, *Tonight*, which will be placed confidently in the middle of the schedules."

The high-profile Thursday night programme is actually to be called *Tonight With Trevor McDonald*, representing the latest phase in his transition from mildly-admired newscaster to venerated TV superstar.

My theory is that the chief catalyst in this

having make-up applied. At 9.52 he was handed a piece of paper which read "Tottenham 3, Southampton 0". He was delighted. "I think I'll sing that," he said. McDonald is a Spurs fan. "Three-nil to the Tottenham," he sang, tunelessly. A technical bod in the control room looked slightly nervous.

At 9.59, McDonald spoke calmly to the autocue operator. "Could you put capital Bs in beef-on-the-bone," he said. "And a comma after bone, please, would you mind awfully?" The "would you mind awfully?" reminded me of something an ITN insider once said to me, that McDonald, the lad from Trinidad, has basically reinvented himself as an upper-middle class English gentleman, fond of champagne and jolly big cigars. "I think Trevor thinks he's white," she said.

In many ways, this is grossly almost slanderously untrue. Covering stories in apartheid-riven South Africa, for instance, he was frequently assumed to be the driver rather than the reporter and recalls standing alongside a group of Afrikaners he was about to interview while they discussed which restaurant they could take him to. "I did used to go back to my hotel room with a bottle of wine and burst into tears at the obscenity of that regime," he said.

But in a sense it is true, for McDonald has worked hard to avoid being professionally black. He encountered racism only once at ITN, years ago when someone accused him of being the organisation's token Afro-Caribbean. "It is true I was very worried that I would be relegated to black stories," he told me. "I said I would not do Brixton stories, and I almost begged to be sent to Ulster." In 1973 he was reporting on a riot in a Catholic area of Belfast when a woman, her face contorted with hatred, snarled at him: "You bloody English, why don't you go back where you belong?"

Until now, we have all known exactly where Trevor McDonald belongs. At the stroke of 10 on Tuesday night, the bongs sounded. "In Uganda today..." he began, concluding 28 minutes later with an "And finally..." about Lenny Henry receiving his OBE at Buckingham Palace. Disappointingly there was no mention of Trevor McDonald. I think *News at Ten* missed a trick there. But after tonight, it no longer matters.

BY BRIAN VINER

he said. Sorry? "It means that the English do not like change, are not given to revolution. So when something like *News at Ten* is moved, they are affronted. What do you mean, they say, by moving these certitudes from our lives?" What indeed? As that old grump Gerald Kaufman has said, the passing of *News at Ten* - which in theory clears the schedules for four hours of lowbrow entertainment between news bulletins - "is a milestone in the dumbing-down of Britain." Not surprisingly, the chief executive of ITN, Stewart Purvis, disagrees.

"Ever since the phrase 'dumbing down' was invented, people have been trying to find examples," he told me. "The fact is that with an early news programme at 6.30, and a late one at 11, we now have broadly the same schedule as most commercial networks round the world. You could say that *News at Ten* was a wonderful British anomaly and that would be true. It always was wonderfully peculiar."

GARNET POINT



From the edge of the New World,
a new, crisp, dry, rounded white.

INSIDE

Letters	2
Leaders and comment	3-5
Obituaries	6-7
Features	8

Science	9
Arts	10
Pop	11-13
Classical	14

Listings	15-16
Radio	17
Satellite TV	17
Today's TV	18

POP

The rural reality

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith's challenge to the farmer's case is overdue ("One man's dog of an argument", 1 March). Farmers constantly tell us that we should all be devastated by the consequences if the rug was pulled from under the present rural regime. But why should we be?

Current farming practices have destroyed much of the landscape attraction and wildlife value of the countryside. Meanwhile farmers resist the idea that the taxpayers and consumers who fund them should enjoy the right to walk upon their holdings.

If farm subsidies were withdrawn and inefficient farmers departed the worst that could happen is that some farmland would revert to wilderness. Farmers tell us this would lead to an invasion "scrub" which we should find intolerable. Why?

"Scrub" is part of the indigenous plant life of our country. Grassland, shrubs and bushes and the woodland into which they develop provide homes and breeding grounds for wild creatures. Other countries go to great lengths to ensure that large areas are dedicated solely to nature. The shortage of wilderness in Britain is arguably a serious problem.

In fact, however, not much land abandoned by agriculture would be likely to lie derelict. As land prices fell uses other than farming would become feasible. Nature conservation organisations would be able to buy far more land. Local authorities would be able to create more extensive country parks.

All of this would be likely to make the countryside far more attractive, useful to the citizenry and biologically diverse.
MARION SHOARD
Dorking, Surrey

Sir: The argument over farming subsidies has become divorced from reality, submerged in a futile debate about whether the countryside would be preserved or not if farmers ceased to get their cheques from the EU.

"Subsidies amounted to £18,300 for every Welsh farm last year, equivalent to 98 per cent of their net income." Andreas Whittam Smith writes. Quite, and that means that without the subsidy there would be almost no Welsh farms at all. Indeed, even with that subsidy upland Welsh hill farmers are forecast to earn a princely £48 in the coming year - greedy bastards.

The argument about subsidies has nothing to do with the preservation of the countryside. It is a hard-nosed argument about the economic survival of tens of thousands of people, village schools, the villages themselves, our market towns and our public services.

In Wales we know well what the death of great industries following the withdrawal of public subsidy means. We know and agree that the mechanisms of support for farming must change to sustain the environment. Farmers hate having to depend on subsidies for their living. But don't let anyone be fooled by the beguiling mirage of cheaper food if subsidies go. Farmers have received about 40 per cent less for their produce in the market in the last two years, but food is no cheaper in the shops.
JAMES GIBSON WATT
Hwy-y-nwyl, Herefordshire

Racism or bigotry

Sir: In the wake of the Stephen Lawrence report, it needs to be pointed out that the real problem in our society is not racism, but bigotry against any group, be they black, Asian, Oriental, Gypsy, new age travellers, Irish, Catholic, Protestant, from the council estate, with long hair, or cropped hair.

It doesn't seem to matter how many cultures or sub-cultures we have, we always seem to have a reason to hate.

I have had experience of the bigotry of some police officers because I rode a motorcycle (this resulted in severe beatings requiring hospital treatment while still in custody).

I have also experienced it

because I chose to live in a bus. I've also seen it from firemen, ambulance drivers, vicars, nurses, friends and even myself.

Seemingly intelligent, compassionate, open-minded people can turn in an instant when faced with their particular pet hate. It is something we all need to take responsibility for. If we start calling it by another name we risk allowing it to be someone else's problem.
PHILIP BOURNE
Bromyard, Hereford and Worcester

Sir: Pate Paul Walter (letter, 2 March), it is not asinine to allege that the Home Office is responsible for the publication of the names of informants in the Stephen Lawrence case.

If an informant is severely injured as a result of his or her identity having been revealed, against whom does Mr Walter imagine the legal action will lie? Sir William Macpherson, in person?

The report is published by the Stationery Office (Cm 4263-I), and bears on its cover the words "Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Home Department".
DR GARY SLAPPER
The Law Programme
The Open University
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Feminist shunned

Sir: I am a man and a feminist but Germaine Greer states that I can't be (Wednesday Review, 3 March). To paraphrase: a feminist is a woman who identifies with other women above all else.

I have always had a lot of respect for her but now I am to be thrown out of the club on the grounds of sex. I have always believed in equality for women in all aspects of life, from the right to equal pay to the right to buy a round in the pub. I have even argued the feminist cause with some women who have thought themselves to be an inferior sex. I find it truly hurtful that, having

expounded the cause for so many years, I am denied the fundamental right that I thought was her cause.

One of us has lost the plot. If it's me I wish someone could explain where I've gone wrong.
ROBERT G BREW
Worthing, Sussex

EU pitfall for Blair

Sir: The case for a referendum on the euro before the next election is even more compelling than your leader (1 March) indicates, as otherwise the election itself will become the referendum.

There are not many other issues of significance dividing the parties and this is one on which the Conservatives have a clear position and which is popular with the public.

At the next election this disappointing government will no longer be able to count on the support of traditional Labour voters like myself and many floating voters will return to their default mode of voting Tory. Thus, without a clear lead in favour of

membership of EMU and an early referendum to settle the issue, Tony Blair will become yet another prime minister to fall over the indecisive and ambivalent attitudes of the British to the European Union.
WH WHITE
South Crecle, Norfolk

Sir: C Crofton-Sleigh seems to have superior knowledge to the rest of us (letter, 3 March). If people vote "no" to EMU in any referendum, it would apparently be because Mr Murdoch has wickedly seduced them.

Your correspondent then makes the gibb statement that the UK's foreign policy is determined by the US. Not last time I looked it wasn't.

The EU is currently set on a common foreign and security policy. If one really wants to see the UK's foreign policy disappear then that is the way to do it. And voting for EMU would be voting for national suicide. And I have a brain to think with independently of Mr Murdoch.
PETER GARDNER
Oxford

IN BRIEF

remember not only the abundant tomato plants (letters, 26 February, 1 March) but also the tomatoes! Some of them found their way into the kitchens of the local council employees. I believe they were considered wartime "perks".
JOAN SEAG-MONTEFIORE
London EC2

Sir: Lily Turner (letter, 3 March) wonders how the mother of a sick child would cope with the NHS Direct telephone advice service. The correct course of action for a mother with a very sick child is to bring the child to the surgery where he or she can be promptly and properly examined, rather than wait for

a home visit. Hopefully any kind of nurse triage system would offer this safe and sensible advice.
DR J MENAGE
Rugby, Warwickshire

Sir: David Aaronovitch may have jumped to an unwarranted conclusion when he reacted so strongly to the notion of changing his name (Comment, 2 March). How many times has he been irritated by misspelled versions?

I recently telephoned an office to speak with a Mr Nakoneczny, but got through first to his colleague, "By the way," I asked, "how do you pronounce his name?"

"I've no idea," came the reply. "We call him Steven."
BILL SMITH
London W13

Sir: It appears that Lord Owen, in creating the New Europe Movement, is trying to split the anti-European vote at the European elections in June ("Pro-Europe group aims to halt EMU", 2 March).

The genuine anti-European Union vote consists of the UK Independence Party and former members of the Referendum Party who have joined us to fight against the corrupt regime of the EU. However, there are people who claim to be against the EU and these come mainly from the Conservative Party, whose MEPs sit in Brussels as part of the pro-federalist Group of the European People's Party. It is the latter group which Lord Owen will help with his new movement.

However, in the long run, it is the pro-federalists like Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown and Alex Salmond who will benefit - in other words the undemocratic European Union.
J W SMITH
UK Independence Party
Ayr, Strathclyde

No role for God

Sir: The "atheism" discussed in Paul Valley's interview with Karen Armstrong (Review, 26 February) has nothing to do with the atheism of most atheists. It just isn't true that "most of us have ceased to believe in Him - and yet we remain very fixed in our notions of who it is in Whom we no longer believe" because most of us have never believed in the first place.

Most of us have no more interest in a God who is "within us" than one who is outside us, or in God as an "experience like music or art" than as a person, or in an "Eastern" than a "Western" "view of the divine".

Atheism itself has no necessary relationship - whether positive or negative - with "spirituality" or "the sacred" whatever they may mean. It is not a dogmatic denial of the existence of superhuman person(s) or supernatural power(s) above or below, outside or inside, before or beyond the, the universe and everything, but simply a pragmatic presumption that there isn't anyone or anything of the kind about whom or which it is worth bothering. Then serious discussion can begin.
NICOLAS WALTER
London N1

Transplant scare

Sir: I am dismayed by the extent to which Roger Blassberg (letter, 2 March) misunderstands the concept of brain stem death and procedures of organ donation. The United Kingdom has extremely exacting criteria for the diagnosis of brain stem death, before which organ donation and procurement may not occur.

Whilst Mr Blassberg is right to say that some organs are in a state of activity and the patient has a blood pressure, brain stem death implies the death of the brain as a whole, without which we are not sentient beings. The criteria by which we arrive at a diagnosis of brain stem death are applied strictly. There is no possibility of a "potentially sentient" person being considered for brain stem testing, let alone for organ donation.

I carry out such brain stem testing frequently. It is evident, when despite "life support" the patient has absent thermal control and will rapidly cool, absent breathing and no responses to carefully performed tests of brain reflexes, that independent living could not occur.

I am greatly in favour of increasing the numbers of available organs for transplantation but not at the expense of alienation of people who may become donors. I agree that the concepts of brain stem death are sometimes difficult, frequently for doctors themselves. The time is right to redress the misunderstandings with further education. Confidence, so easily undermined by a failure to grasp the facts, can then be improved in our organ donation and transplantation programme.

M T E HEAFIELD
Consultant Neurologist
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Edgbaston, Birmingham

Council secrecy

Sir: While the move to weed out corrupt councils is welcome (report, 1 March), you barely touch on the frightening threat to democracy in Labour's recent White Paper which seeks to "modernise" local government.

Local authorities are required to change their decision-making processes in a way that concentrates power in the hands of a few - or even one.

In the most-favoured version, a leader with a "cabinet" of senior councillors will act as the executive. All other councillors, will have to be content with a "scrutiny" role. All committees (except for those with a statutory basis like Licensing and Planning) will be abolished.

The press and public, who now are able to be present at committee meetings and to see reports, will no longer know for certain how the "cabinet" reaches its conclusions. They and the remaining elected councillors will have to be content with hand-outs. Only at (whipped) council meetings will all councillors be able to vote.

The Government's two alternative versions are an elected mayor, similar to the one proposed for Greater London, with a chosen "cabinet", or a mayor alone, relying entirely on paid officials.

Implementing the two "mayor" versions needs primary legislation, but some councils are already piloting the "leader and cabinet" version. In Hammer Smith one councillor comments: "Ninety per cent of what was public a year ago is now secret." Councillor MARGARET LITTLE, Liberal Democrat Group, London Borough of Camden, London WC1

Posh talk in the Vic

Sir: Beryl Bainbridge is entitled to her opinion on the Liverpool accent (report, 3 March) but, according to your Quote of the Day, having heard that she has won the WH Smith Literary Award, she says: "I will have to go home for a lie down, then I'll watch EastEnders." Presumably those "dahn satf" have clearer diction?
P J HILL
Liverpool

Just when you thought it was safe to ignore the slogan

Very Unusual Jobs Indeed
No 56: A Man Who Thinks Up Film Slogans

"WHEN YOUR Best Friend Becomes Your Worst Enemy".
"X Marks The Victim".
"When Love Is Not Enough".
"Would You Buy Secondhand Carnage From This Man?"
"A Man, A Woman - And Her Mother!"

These are just a few of the slogans dreamt up by Joe Kraven to adorn film posters. You may not recognise them. This is partly because we hardly ever read the slogans on film posters. It is also partly because these particular ones have never been used. Joe Kraven makes up many more film slogans than ever get used. In fact, he made these up while waiting to be

interviewed, just five minutes ago. "I eat, sleep and drink these damn things," says Kraven. "I wake up in the middle of the night with them coming out of my ears. In the morning I find I have scribbled them all over my pad."

Why make up so many if they are not going to be used?
"You don't know much about the film industry, do you?" laughs Kraven. "Nor do the people in the film industry. They know nothing. They don't know what they want or what anyone else wants. They just want something a bit like the last great thing. So when I'm asked for a slogan, I don't just take one along, because I know they'll ask me to rewrite it, however good it is. I take a dozen. Then they have to choose one. And then they ask me to rewrite it!"

And what purpose do they serve? "Absolutely none!" chorries Kraven. "They are totally useless. I mean, if you bring out a romantic comedy, and I give it a slogan like 'Old Enough To Know Better, Young Enough To Be Bad', nobody is going to see the film on the strength of that, are they? Well, I wouldn't. I might go on the basis of a review, or word of mouth, or the stars, but not the slogan. 'Hm, I say to myself, 'a film about someone who is old enough to know better, but gets into trouble anyway... Must see it!' How likely is that on a scale of one to 10?"

So why are they on film posters at all, these little slogans?
"Well, occasionally it's to please the man who made the film. Remember *Blazing Saddles*? Of course you do. Remember the slo-



MILES KINGSTON

'Never Give A Saga An Even Break. If that's not Mel Brooks's private gag, I'll eat my hat!'

gan? Of course you don't. It was 'Never Give A Saga An Even Break'. If that's not Mel Brooks's

little private gag, I'll eat my hat. But mostly, I suspect, it's because the film-makers are never happy with the title, so they give it a kind of subtitle as a compensation. Actually, sometimes the slogan would have made a better title. Do you remember the slogan for *Alien*? 'In Space No-one Can Hear You Scream'. Great slogan - great title, way better than *Alien*. Even though it's nonsensical."

Nonsensical? How come?
"Well, the reason nobody hears you scream in space is there's no air. But by the same token, you can't scream either."

"Of course, in the old days films never had slogans, and nobody cared. They made *Some Like It Hot* into one of the funniest movies ever, and nobody ever put on the posters 'Three Women On A Train - And

Two Of Them Are Men!'. But by the time you come to *Four Weddings And A Funeral*, you find someone adding the slogan 'Five Reasons To Stay Single', and you wonder: is it worth it? The other day I saw the video of the French film *Les Visiteurs*, about the medieval guys who time-trip to the present, and the slogan was 'They Weren't Born Yesterday'. And you think who on earth dreamt that up?"

Was it you, by any chance?
"Could have been. Don't remember now. So many slogans, so few ideas... Hey, that's not bad. I'll write that down."

Do slogans ever survive?
"Survive? I'll tell you something. I had a slogan made into a film once! Sure, I'm not kidding. There was a film about a couple who kept falling in and out of love,

and I came up with the slogan, 'She Wanted to Have His Child - But His Child Couldn't Stand Her', which didn't work at all because the guy didn't actually have a child. But the film guys said, 'Hey good idea! Man and woman fall in love on the rebound, but his son can't stand the daniel'. And they made the film!"

And you got the money?
"No," says Joe Kraven affably. "I never thought to copyright my slogans. You'd think I'd know better..."

What are you working on now?
"I'll give you the slogan and see if you can spot the story. Two men, one island, no women..."

Some gay extravaganza?
"Nah. *Robinson Crusoe*!" And Joe Kraven roars with laughter. Well, at least someone connected with Hollywood seems to enjoy his work.

JP 11/10/50

PANDORA

A NEW voice is making itself heard in Californian lecture halls where the planet's most cerebral physicists gather. The voice is a "substantial baritone, round and full; the accent borderline Scottish or Welsh, but schooled well short of a full brogue," according to one whitecoat at the Fermilab near San Francisco. The owner of this voice knows his stuff, too – he is Stephen Hawking (pictured), author of *A Brief History of Time*, and the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University.

So it's goodbye to the clunkily synthesised Swedish-robot-from-TV speech familiar from TV commercials. Thanks to a more powerful new processing chip, the computer-generated voice sounds closer to Hawking's original, which went south when Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) struck him as a 21-year-old in 1963. Hawking's greatest achievement? "Being alive today," the 57-year-old told the Fermilab crew. "I am happier now than before my condition appeared. My ALS ruled out most careers except theoretical physics."

CHERIE BOOTH QC has been leading a large – and legally aided – High Court case. The defendants, mostly unemployed since October 1991, are embroiled in litigation with the defunct bank BCCI. In her opening statement, Booth felt she should explain her clients' reluctance to take part-time or temporary jobs. Booth blamed the benefits system which was, she told the court, "becoming harsher". The benefits system, she added, punishes unemployed people with a mortgage who take on anything other than permanent full-time work. Isn't this a subject she could mention over breakfast to her Number One Guy?

STOP HIM before he writes again Dept. In next Monday's *New Yorker*, American literary colossus John Updike offers an ode to genefacting geisha Monica L. It accuses her of being "Bill's DeLia" and, flying in the face of all the evidence, ends "You're history now, Monica. In your little black beret." Not just yet, baby.

ASTOUNDING TRUE fact: You know what the most popular spirit in Scotland is? Vodka.

IT WAS cognac that flowed at the K-Bar's first birthday party this week. Piers Adam, owner of the glitzy six-venue chain had arranged for Moët Hennessy to cater the event with triple shots of frozen XO brandy. Revellers walked through a long laser-lit tunnel to a VIP room guarded by two six-foot-tall blonde amazons. Moët Hennessy's main board had flown in specially from France. And which A-list celebrities met their astonished gaze? Renegade fashion muse Miss Trixie, *Coronation Street* micro-iron Chris Quinden and expansive Tory club owner Peter Stringfellow. That chilled cognac kicks hard, and Pandora's enquiries about the event were met with glassy smiles and glib shrugs. Let's put it down to Global Cooling.

BUT THE winner of Pandora's saucer of milk this morning is the K-Bar rockchick who was slugging off the Beatles tribute band Oasis. One of the Gallagher wives, Meg Mathews, abandoned her "column" in the *Sunday Times* recently, so she could spend more time running her party business with her friend Fran. "They're so over," the rockchick sighed. "We call them Freg and Man now." Miaow!

Contact Pandora by e-mail at: pandora@independent.co.uk

It's all over when the fat bloke snores



PHILIP HENSHER

The indignation at this awful behaviour is, in a way, more interesting than the behaviour itself

THE SCENE is Klingor's magic garden, about eight o'clock on a wet Wednesday night. Parsifal is listening to Kundry slowly seducing him, sinking into a great perfumed cushion of sound; a perfect moment of poisoned stillness.

The audience at English National Opera seems to be holding its breath. But what can that strange noise be, like heavy cotton being ripped in two? Can it be some unfamiliar percussion effect to the orchestra? Has the stage machinery gone into reverse, with a horrible grinding noise?

The singers are carrying on bravely, and here it comes again, sounding exactly as if someone is dying. The audience murmurs, and in a moment finds the perpetrator. It's some fat bloke, who has discovered the perfect spot to fall asleep and snore: the box right next to the stage. If he had been in the stalls, he wouldn't be half so audible; as it is, he is projecting directly into the auditorium, giving the performance a lifetime. His companions are digging him in the ribs; the audience is muttering, outraged, and he is woken up and carried out, never to return.

grand tier confronts his neighbour, rustling his way through a large bag of cellophane-wrapped sweets. And the code of conduct at Parsifal is even stricter than usual; by the best standards, one isn't supposed to applaud at the end of the first act, and if you start to clap at Bayreuth, you will be indignantly silenced by the keepers of the flame.

So there's something pleasing at this 30-second desecration. It's partly the pleasure of the appalling timing – there could hardly be a more conspicuous moment, or a more damaging one, to start snoring in any opera. And partly the feeling of "There but for the grace of God..."

The indignation at this awful behaviour is, in a way, more interesting than the behaviour itself. It's not so long ago that people went to the opera and talked all the way through it, as they do at the cinema these days. Indeed, so universal was the behaviour that operas were written in a style of noisy blandness, for the specific purpose of being talked over.

The English middle classes go to the cinema for an annual treat, so that they can keep up a running

commentary of "Oh, Judi Dench, she lives opposite a cousin of mine – didn't you think she was awfully good in *Mrs Brown*?" Similarly, the sort of epic nonsense by Rossini which is now listened to with utter reverence was originally performed to a deafening ritallo by a chattering audience, and even if it had been possible in the din to go to sleep, your snoring would have passed as unnoticed as it would in the Odeon in Leicester Square.

If you actually tried to watch an English film, or sit in silence through a Rossini opera, I expect you would go mad; they are designed to be half-attended to while maintaining a constant stream of conversation. Only the smartest Italian opera houses maintain a strict decorum – in Rome or Naples, for example, the audience is always apt to start humming along, or even – something I once saw in Sicily – answering their mobile telephones in the second act of *La Sonnambula*.

Of course, people never talked through Parsifal, but I wonder whether the respect due to the great monuments of Western art is not being unhelpfully extended to anything with any cultural pretension at all.

I couldn't help thinking that this artificial reverence for culture on the part of the audience has some connection with the apparently brutal looting for it exhibited by some of the professionals: treating it as something which may only be wrapped in cotton wool, or smashed on the ground. The interesting thing about the other night is that it happened at an awful production of the opera, reversing every single one of the opera's meanings and redeemed only by the musical performance. The vicious desecration of Parsifal this production represents would not be interesting to a more relaxed audience, just as blasphemy is not shocking to anyone but the pious.

I'm not advocating that anyone starts cracking walnuts in the stalls when Covent Garden reopens, but you might like to consider whether the typical opera-goer's hissing outrage at breaches of propriety is not a strong encouragement for a producer who may be considering whether or not to set his production of Parsifal on one of the sidings at Clapham Junction.

Subsidise and be damned – farmers are a special case



JOHN LICHFIELD

There is no substitute for family-scale agriculture as the backbone of a proper rural economy

WHEN I last met Robert, he was a school-boy and my younger brother's best friend. The other day, I met him for the first time in 30 years. He had taken over his father's farm in the heart of the finest dairy country of the eastern Cheshire plain. This farm, with its beautiful early 19th century house, was once regarded as a ranch, an enormous holding, even by the relatively prosperous standards of Cheshire.

Robert reported, with a rueful grin, that his farm was now regarded as medium-to-small and close to marginal. In his mid-40s, he had been told that he must double the number of his milking cows if the farm was going to survive the chilly, agricultural climate predicted for the early years of the next century.

Joel, 28, is a young beef farmer whom I met last year in Creuse, in the green, empty heart of France. He has built up the family farm so that it now occupies the land which sustained 10 separate farms 20 years ago. He produces high quality, grass-reared, organic beef by a mixture of old-fashioned and high-tech methods (closed-circuit TV in the cowsheds, computers in the farmhouse, but no chemical fertilisers or suspect, bought-in animal feeds).

Joel too said that, despite all his investment and innovations, he regarded his own chances of survival as 50:50. He looked forward with foreboding to the new round of EU farm policy negotiations, which were then only a cloud on the northern horizon but are now provoking froth and fury in Brussels.

Both men are typical of the kind of updated, but traditional, farming that we should cherish and encourage. Both face an uncertain future. I am going to try to make an unpopular argument: we should continue to subsidise farmers, although not in the way we do now,

which is counter-productive to the farmers themselves.

My old boss, Andreas Whittam Smith, recently argued in this space that all agricultural support was mispent: that farmers had no more right to be subsidised than car workers, miners, fishermen or journalists. Jeremy Paxman once described Mr Whittam Smith as looking as though he might secretly "farm half of Norfolk". Apparently not. But to answer Andreas's main argument, I believe that there are two fundamental reasons why farming is different.

First, you can abolish a steel-works or a coal mine or a car factory and eventually replace it with something else. You cannot abolish the heart of France or the Welsh hills or the eastern Cheshire plain. There is no substitute for family-scale agriculture as the backbone of a rural, rather than mock-rural, semi-urban economy. There is no other way to preserve the characteristic landscape – or landscapes – of western Europe, which are largely an agricultural creation.

The present rate of rural depopulation is already disturbing, even with subsidies in place. The option of low intensity sub-subsidisation is not available to all regions. If subsidies were to be abolished, *One Man and his Dog* might be no longer just a television programme, but the population of western Shropshire.

To glimpse a subsidy-free future you need only visit the soulless steppes of Norfolk, or the mournful plains of the Ile-de-France where vast cereal farms – which require no subsidy but take the biggest ones under the present bizarre policy – have destroyed hedgerows and villages, and poisoned water courses with nitrate fertilisers. You only have to visit Brittany, where industrial pig-production units have swamped the pork market and befouled the local water supply.

The second reason why agriculture is different is that it produces the food we eat. The BSE crisis was a by-product of "efficient", non-traditional agriculture: the only kind that could survive if subsidies were abolished. There is already a turning away from chemically-produced and genetically modified food, which suggests that a more traditional form of farming can have a future. But it would be impossible for it to survive without targeted subsidies and incentives, at least in the medium term.

The present Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), though much reformed, is still based on encouraging production by propping up prices at artificially high levels. Economically, it cannot survive the enlargement of the union to the thousands of underdeveloped farms in Poland, Hungary or the Czech Republic. Politically, it cannot survive the next round of world trade talks.

But there are good, pro-farmer, pro-rural reasons for wanting to



French farmers discuss cattle prices

Brian Harris

phase out the present CAP and replace it with a policy that would be kinder to family-sized holdings, kinder to the environment and, yes, even kinder to animals.

The present policy has bred its own downfall by encouraging mindless productivity ahead of quality or the interests of the wider rural economy. Even the French government has abandoned its support for this approach, long hypocritically defended as a means of protecting the delicate culture of *La France profonde*. France has become the world's second strongest agricultural power during the last 30 years, but has lost 500,000 farms in the process.

The CAP has been generous to the giant cereal farms of the north – which have been in turn kind to French political party funds – but the empty, green heart of France has become emptier and emptier. Hence all those cheap holiday homes.

Now all the ministers in Brussels, including the French, say that they favour a policy that targets aid for

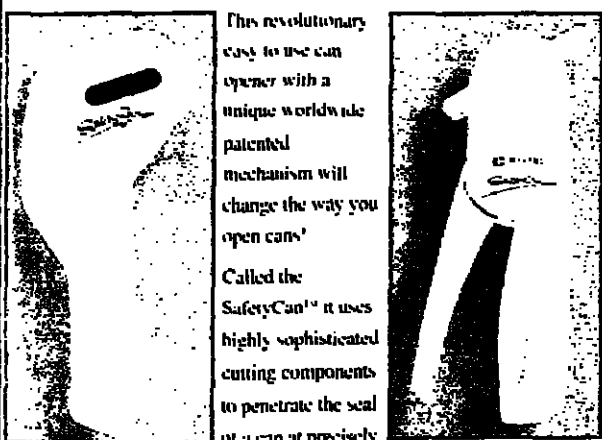
well-run, smaller and medium farms: a policy which is tied to food quality and respect for the environment. So far so good. There are differences about how such aims can best be achieved. That is inevitable.

The real problem is that the negotiations in Brussels are not really about the future philosophy and direction of farm policy at all. They are about who should pay Germany and the European Commission have suggested that part of the cost of a reformed policy should be paid by each government to its own farmers. This makes perfect sense if there is to be room in the EU budget for anything else. But it doesn't serve the self interest of the French, whose agriculture, and public spending, is currently subsidised by the EU (ie the Germans) to the tune of around £5bn a year.

The depressing prospect – even the likelihood – is that the hope of a sensible CAP reform will be lost in some middle-of-the-night compromise based on the interests, not of farmers or consumers, but of national treasuries.

THE INDEPENDENT

The World's Safest Can Opener
- just £12.99 including postage & packing



the right place and angle creating incredibly smooth edges on both the can and the lid which simply lifts off without causing sharp edges on either the can or the lid and without dropping into the food. Not just safer, this can opener is easy to use, just a turn of the handle produces over 100lbs of cutting power allowing the pre-lubricated mechanism to open any size and -shape of can. This is an amazing kitchen tool which is fully guaranteed and is supported by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and an absolute must for all kitchen drawers.

When you order your SafetyCan™ you will also receive, completely FREE of charge, the SafetyJar™ worth £3.99 which will enable you to open any jar or bottle with the utmost ease. A super opportunity at just £12.99 including postage and packing.

HOW TO ORDER: (For UK readers only)

Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order or CASH (please send to THE INDEPENDENT CAN OPENER OFFER, 20 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex S51 1NL).

For overseas orders, please phone 01702 332922.

We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for a refund of a completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Please send me: ☐ Can Opener - £12.99 each inc p&p

I enclose a crossed cheque for £ (address on back) made payable to: Independent Newspapers (UK) Ltd (INC73) or debit my Access/VISA account by this amount. My card number is:

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Post Code: _____

SEND TO: THE INDEPENDENT CAN OPENER OFFER, 20 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex S51 1NL.

Please tick each box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Independent Newspapers (UK) Ltd or companies associated with it.

Independent Newspapers (UK) Ltd INC73

The BBC has too little influence

THE FUTURE of public service broadcasting lies first in the hands of Parliament but also in the conduct of the BBC by its governors and managers.

In my first week, I was challenged to define my objective. I replied that it was to leave the BBC complete with its channels and its licence fee intact. At the time that was thought to be a very unlikely prospect.

The general view was that we would lose several channels. In the event we retained them all and the licence fee and, at the same time, strengthened the power of the governors, though you might not have noticed it.

The BBC is still a marvellous organisation. It still puts out great programmes on radio and television, but I do not think that it has got its strategy right. We face the prospect of 200 or perhaps 500 competitive channels and the onset of digital broadcasting.

I firmly believe that the BBC's response should be not to expand its empire at the licence payers' expense but to concentrate on its mainstream channels and invest in them. When I joined the BBC, Lord

Annan told me that the BBC's problem was not that it wanted to do what everyone else did but that it wanted to do more of what everyone else did, and the situation does not seem much to have changed.

Michael Checkland and John Birt, under pressure from the governors, made great administrative reforms, saved large sums of money and radically improved efficiency, for which they both deserve great credit. But there is still a lot of money about.

The licence fee brings in £2bn a year. When I left the BBC (and I have checked this), there was £250m in cash from savings unspent, £200m was given as an uplift to the licence fee for the introduction of digital television and a further £240m from the sale of transmission. That totals £690m pounds, which is a lot of money. What has happened to it?

If there is a shortage of money it is not difficult to see what should be done. There is too much bureaucracy, over-bloated policy units, and too much spent on expansion and management.

The money should go on what the licence payer can



PODIUM

MARMADUKE HUSSEY

From a speech by the former chairman of the BBC in the House of Lords

see or hear, on those mainstream channels which won for the BBC its acknowledged reputation as the finest broadcaster in the world. It is alleged that "News 24" costs £30m. That is an enormous amount of money, yet no one could find £4m for the Test Matches, now lost, together with the cup final, the grand prix and England at Twickenham.

The BBC is a national broadcaster, where people

expect to see and hear the big events. It would be a great mistake to ask for a licence fee increase higher than the cost of living and might incur considerable resentment. So far as I can see, the people have accepted the current system without complaint. Equally, I do not believe in the amalgamation of radio and television. I fear for the future of radio against the monster television.

Much of it is of very high standard, supported by a dedicated and articulate audience. Anyone seriously interested in the news would listen to Radio 4, *The World at One* and *The World Tonight*. BBC television news is excellent, but it has neither the time nor the space to give the coverage that radio does.

The BBC was founded by an engineer – an unusual engineer, with moral and social vision. It has always been at the front of technology and must go digital both on radio and on television. It gives much better reception.

But digital broadcasting is not the message; it is only the messenger. The moral, economic and intellectual argument for a national broad-

casting service funded by a poll tax lies in its absolute independence, the quality of its programmes, the breadth of its output and the manner in which it extends the choice of programmes for its audience. If it does not do that, it is a con.

Currently, the BBC is wading into ratings battle with the toughest, roughest and richest companies in the broadcasting world. That is not a battle that it will win.

It does not have the money or the ruthless competitive streak that the opposition has. The BBC is dedicated to setting high standards for the industry and widening the people's choice, and it is staffed by dedicated men and women who share that motivation but many of whom are now sorely depressed.

The future of the BBC lies in the minds and skills of those programme-makers whose budgets are now being dangerously squeezed. When I arrived at the BBC, I thought it had too much influence; I now think it has too little. I believe that it is time for a change of emphasis and appeal to uplift the hearts and enliven the minds.

John Lichfield

Professor David Daube

DRIVEN FROM Germany in 1933, David Daube was one of that group of Jewish scholars who introduced new standards of scholarship to the universities of Britain. In an active scholarly career spanning more than six decades, he mastered three distinct fields: he began in biblical and Talmudic law, and Roman law, but his work on the Old Testament and Rabbinic sources led him more and more to the study of the Jewish background to New Testament texts and doctrines. As a victim of anti-Semitism, he saw this as his way of contributing to a greater understanding between Judaism and Christianity.

Daube's interest in Judaism was far from purely academic: he was involved in many Jewish organisations and, until late in life, he strictly observed the Sabbath and the dietary laws; moreover, resistance to oppression is a recurring theme in his writings. Because his work is spread over so many different areas and he wrote no comprehensive treatise in any of them, it is impossible for any one person to survey Daube's contribution as a whole, far less to judge its likely enduring impact. What can be said, however, is that in each of his chosen fields his work was almost always original and often brilliant.

Born in 1909 in the Germany of Wilhelm II, Daube came from an orthodox Jewish background, his mother being Selma Ascher from Nördlingen and his father Jakob Daube, a wine merchant in Freiburg. Despite the First World War and its aftermath, David and his brother Benjamin, appear to have grown up in fairly comfortable circumstances in Freiburg.

He attended the renowned Berthold-gymnasium there, with short spells in a Swiss private school for orthodox Jews and in Paris. He began his university studies in Freiburg, and came to the attention of Otto Lenel, the founder of the modern study of Roman law and himself of Jewish stock. Although Lenel was then about 80 and had retired some years before, he continued to work and singled out Daube, whom he treated as a personal pupil. Daube liked to recall how he would walk from the family home in Goethestrasse through the leafy streets of residential Freiburg to Lenel's house in Holbeinstrasse, where the two would discuss questions of Roman law. These discussions proved one of the decisive influences in Daube's academic life.

While maintaining his links with Freiburg, Daube studied for his doctorate in Göttingen, where he was taught by Johannes Hempel and the young Wolfgang Kunkel with whom he formed a lifelong friend-

ship. His thesis was on a topic of Old Testament law and earned him his doctorate "mit Auszeichnung" in 1932. When, half a century later, he tried to obtain a copy of the entry in the university records, he was told that the page had been torn out during the Nazi period. The coming to power of Hitler was the turning point in Daube's life. Even before then, he had been alive to the threat which Hitler posed: on one occasion he had gone with a girlfriend to hear him speak and had been struck by the power of his oratory.

In 1933 Lenel lost no time in advising Daube to leave Germany. He gave him a letter of introduction to Professor H.F. Jolowicz in London. Jolowicz in turn sent Daube on to Cambridge, where W.W. Buckland was the Regius Professor of Civil Law. Although the two men were very different and, to begin with, had to converse in French, they got on well together and in later years Daube went out of his way to quote Buckland's views in respectful terms. By 1935 Daube had obtained a PhD from Cambridge for his work on the Roman statute dealing with damage to property. Part of that work was published, as his first

contact with scholars in Germany. In 1951 he was appointed Professor of Jurisprudence at Aberdeen, but he did not stay there long, since he accepted the offer of the Regius Chair of Civil Law in Oxford when it suddenly fell vacant after the death of Jolowicz in 1954. None the less Daube always remained particularly grateful to Aberdeen for having given him his first chair.

When he took up his appointment and his All Souls fellowship in 1955, Daube was pre-eminent in Roman law studies in Britain. He now held the foremost chair. The Oxford of those days, where Roman law was still compulsory not only in Moderations but in Schools, might seem to have been the ideal place for Daube to pursue his career among colleagues who shared his interests. For a while all did indeed go well. Daube was at the height of his powers, producing a stream of readable yet closely reasoned and convincing articles in which he often concealed his scholarship under a light, sometimes almost flippant, style. An anonymous article in the *Oxford Magazine*, on the origins of Humpty Dumpty as an engine used at the Siege of Gloucester, was widely acclaimed.

He soon became known as a brilliant and entertaining teacher who brought the law of ancient Rome to life: undergraduates who would otherwise have had no interest in Roman law long remembered his lectures. As in Aberdeen, he had a number of doctoral students in biblical law and Roman law. On all of his pupils he had an indelible influence. Within the university and beyond he was skilful in securing posts for his protégés.

But moves were afoot to reform the Oxford Law syllabus by introducing new subjects and eliminating the compulsory Roman law paper in schools. These incipient changes were paralleled by changes in Daube's own life. He was divorced in 1964. He moved into All Souls, where he lived and worked in overheated rooms. He seems to have become progressively disenchanted with Oxford and with what he regarded as restrictions on his freedom. By the mid-1960s he was spending more and more time in America, especially in California with Helen Smelser, whom he was eventually to marry in 1986. He had also bought a flat in Konstanz in southern Germany, where he would spend part of the Easter vacation as a visiting professor.

This unsettled period came to an end in 1970 when Boalt Hall, the Berkeley Law School, offered him positions as Director of the Robbins Hebraic and Roman Law Collections and as Professor-in-Residence. He accepted – and resigned his Oxford



Daube's vast store of knowledge underpinned all aspects of his work

chair, just as the changes in the Law syllabus came into effect.

Daube moved to San Francisco and began his new life in a tiny flat in a somewhat rundown area. The climate suited him and the breathing difficulties which had plagued him for many years largely disappeared. An ice-cream in the sun with Helen at Fisherman's Wharf was a pleasant way to relax and, for a long time at least, his relationship with her brought him happiness and new interests, especially in the world of psychoanalysis.

Daube seemed to revel in what he regarded as his new, laid-back, life. Getting up early in the morning, he would greet the dawn and out on his way through the empty streets to the bus station, where he bought a newspaper – he never watched

television or listened to the radio – and caught the bus for the short journey across the Bay Bridge to Berkeley. He would arrive at Boalt Hall well before breakfast, ready for the work of the day.

For many years – and indeed long after he officially retired in 1981 – he faithfully gave courses and lectures on Roman law and other topics. But his main occupation was study and writing in a very small room filled with his books and papers behind the stacks in the law library. Boalt Hall was indeed to remain the focus of his life for as long as he was able to read and to work. Members of the staff and other colleagues did much, discreetly, to support him and, later, to look after him when he had to move into a home.

The key to Daube's work was his

massive intellect and learning: in addition to the texts associated with his professional work, he seemed to have read and remembered the whole of classical, German, French and English literature and more besides. This vast store of knowledge underpinned all aspects of his work, for central to that work was close study of texts and minute attention to language and to the nuances of language.

Typically, he would start with a single text, perhaps even an isolated word in a text, and, by revealing a hitherto unsuspected meaning or dimension, he would go on to illuminate a whole area of his chosen subject. For these purposes context was often crucial. In Old Testament studies stress had been placed on the importance of a text's Sitz im

Leben (setting in life) and Daube applied that technique, attractively if not always convincingly, to Roman law in *Forms of Roman Legislation* (1966).

Our knowledge of Roman law comes, for the most part, from the digest which is made up of thousands of extracts from the works of ancient jurists. Lenel, whom Daube revered, had revolutionised its study by identifying the original context of many of these extracts. In the 1950s and 1960s Daube published a series of dazzling papers in which he carried on Lenel's work – only in private would he hint that he might well have improved on it. It can be no coincidence that the best and most substantial of these papers, and arguably his finest article on Roman law, was written in sober academic German and appeared in the *Societäts Zeitschrift*. It is his monument, to be set beside the master's.

Indeed, Daube remained a quintessentially German scholar. Even after living for decades in the English-speaking world, he had a strong German accent – some surmised that this could hardly be unintentional. In later years, he would seem outwardly to have adopted the relaxed Californian way of life, with long hair, an open-necked shirt and some linguistic usages to match. To the chagrin of some of his colleagues, he professed at least to favour many of the aims of the students in Berkeley and elsewhere in the late 1960s, though he was so skilful at arguing for any point of view that it was often difficult to be sure exactly how strongly he supported a particular cause.

In truth, of course, David Daube was completely different from those students: his life's work had been built on that particular meticulous, disciplined scholarship and *Wissenschaft* which he had acquired long before in Weimar Germany. He was thus the product of a system of education which has vanished for ever.

ALAN RODGER

David Daube, Roman law and Jewish scholar: born Freiburg, Germany 8 February 1909; Fellow, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge 1938-46; Lecturer in Law, Cambridge University 1946-51; Professor of Jurisprudence, Aberdeen University 1951-55; Regius Professor of Civil Law, Oxford University 1955-70; Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford 1955-70 (Emeritus); FBA 1957; Director, Robbins Hebraic and Roman Law Collections and Professor-in-Residence, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley 1970-81 (Emeritus Professor of Law); twice married (three sons); died Pleasant Hill, California 24 February 1999.

Anthea Askey



Anthea Askey and her father Arthur, 1954

Hulton Getty

PERT AND pretty, sweet and very petite, Anthea Askey was the delightful daughter of one of the country's all-time favourite funny men, Arthur Askey, who might very well have called himself "sweet and petite" if only in jest. The only child of Arthur and his beloved wife, May, both of whom might be described as pocket-sized, Anthea inherited her father's spirit of comedy and her mother's good looks. Domesticity and producing grandchildren for her parents deprived her of a fulsome career in television and faithful viewers of a major star.

Anthea Shirley Askey was born in 1933 in the same Golders Green nursing home where her funny father was having his tonsils removed. "It was a sort of package deal," he was pleased to remember. A few weeks later Askey was to make his first BBC radio broadcast in *Saturday Night Music Hall*. He felt his daughter's birth brought him luck for within a few years he would become the star of radio's first regular comedy series, *Band Waggon*, which would lead him into a string of major comedy films over the next decade.

Anthea's education at a nearby convent was interrupted by the Second World War. The Askey family evacuated themselves to Worthing, then in 1940 to Lytham in Lancashire while Arthur starred at the Blackpool Opera House, then to Portmeirion in Wales, moving to Lake Windermere in 1941, a cottage in Little Milton in 1942, after which Anthea was put into a boarding school at Bletchley.

Finally in 1944 the Askeys bought a house in Sussex. Moving in at Christmas they discovered their gardener was augmenting his income by selling their prize vegetables to the local greengrocer. By this time Anthea's permanent nickname for her dad was "Wave". As an infant in arms she thought it was his name. Every time Askey left the house, wherever it might be, her mother took the child's arm and said, "Wave".

She made her first stage appearance in 1945 at the age of 12. She was attending boarding school on

the Isle of Wight at the time. The local repertory theatre at Ventnor needed a young girl for a small part in the Emlyn Williams play *Dear Evelyn*. Anthea was eager to take the job, as it meant no homework plus late nights for a fortnight. Dad was especially delighted when an on-stage door stuck. Anthea gave it a couple of pulls, then ad-libbed "I think I'll go through the French windows, it's quicker!" Like father, like daughter.

In 1948 Askey received his first invitation (of nine) to take part in the *Royal Variety Performance*. After

the show he asked Anthea how she liked it. "Do you know daddy," she said, "they didn't give me a spoon with my ice-cream".

In 1948 the 15-year-old Anthea passed her radio audition and was cast as the lisping Violet Elizabeth Bott in the latest series of sit-coms based on Richard Crompton's *Just William*. Naughty schoolboy William Brown was played by David Spenser, the former newsreader Bruce Belfrage played Mr Brown, while his wife was played by none other than Enid Trevor, wife and straight-woman to comedian Claude Huiart.

Anthea Askey made her last film in 1959. This was father's final starring vehicle, *Make Mine a Million*. He played a television make-up man while she did a guest star walk-on with her television co-star, Dickie Henderson. For by this time she had become one of the new stars of London's latest television channel, the Independent Commercial Company, Associated-Rediffusion.

She began as ever in a production starring her father. This was a serialised version of *Love and Kisses*, shown in five episodes at the end of 1955 and not much more than a di-

rect full-frontal filming of the Glenn Melvyn stage play currently performing in Blackpool. The programmes were made by Jack Hyton Productions, who would make Arthur Askey's final cinema films and most of his, and all of Anthea's, television series. Hyton, once a dance band leader, now an impresario, was the contract comedy producer for ITV and, of course, agent for the Askeys.

Next came *Before Your Very Eyes* (1956), taken over from the BBC and again starring father and daughter, followed by *Living It Up* (1957), a television version of Askey's first ever radio series running him with Dickie Murdoch 18 years later, this time they were living (on the programme) in a flat atop Broadcasting House but Television House. Anthea played herself.

In 1957 came the show that would make her a full-blown star at last. Beginning as *The Dickie Henderson Show* and later retitled *The Dickie Henderson Half-hour*, the series ran for several years. Dickie, whose first contact with Askey was singing with his sisters, the Henderson Twins, in the stage version of *Band Waggon*, played husband to Anthea's wife. The scripts were Anglicised from an American sit-com starring Sid Caesar, and a number have been preserved by the National Film Archive. In the later programmes, Anthea's role was taken over by June Laverick.

In 1956 Anthea had married Bill Stewart, her father's stage manager in *Love Match*, and now fell pregnant. Unhappily their firstborn died when only three weeks old. Later she was able to present her father with three grandchildren, Jane, Andrew and William. Tragically Anthea Askey died just a week before she was due to marry Will Fyfe Jr, the pianist son of the Scottish comedian Will Fyfe.

DENIS GIFFORD

Anthea Shirley Askey, actress: born London 2 March 1933; married 1956 Bill Stewart (two sons, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Worthing, West Sussex 28 February 1999.

Pat Fogarty

PAT FOGARTY was an illustrator whose drawings and watercolours appeared regularly in newspapers, magazines, books, and in national advertising campaigns – in every size and context, from billboards to brochures to ginger-beer labels.

She was born in 1940, in Cape Province, South Africa, and brought up with her elder brother, Denis and Leigh, her twin, in remotest Namibia where her father farmed; her grandfather Nelson Wellesley Fogarty was the first Anglican bishop of Damaraland. "Piffy" never lost her childhood nickname, her speech sprinkled with glottal Afrikaans, or her cinematic knowledge and delight in film-star glamour absorbed from the local hotel's Saturday film shows. After boarding school in Port Elizabeth, a three-day train ride away, she studied art at Port Elizabeth

Technical College from 1959 to 1962. Squaring up to the prospect of living under apartheid, she chose freedom and left for Europe. Next followed a peripatetic decade in France, England and the Greek island Skiathos; a hand-to-mouth living teaching and painting was gradually replaced by artwork commissions. In 1981 she settled in north London and consolidated her career as a self-employed illustrator (she also co-translated several books of cartoons by Claire Bretcher). Her clients included Penguin, *The Daily Telegraph* and *Reader's*

Digest; she also produced more than a hundred illustrations in a two-year project for Tesco.

Her skill at creating a likeness led to commissions such as Penguin's cover portraits of John Mortimer for *Clinging to the Wreckage* and *In Character*. Evocative restaurant interiors and still-lives enhanced restaurant and food columns.

Her work was versatile, honest, based on research and photographs (she was a talented photographer), with friends' cast as nurses, passers or romantic heroes. The style was clear, precise and confident. She never missed a deadline. Her last set of monochrome illustrations, for *The Costume Collector's Companion* 1890-1990 by Rosemary Hawthorne (1998, for Aurum Press), showed her precision of line at its finest, qualifying her for the title of artist that she denied herself.

For six years Pat Fogarty was a volunteer at Lesbian & Gay Switchboard. Two years ago, as new technology and computer-generated technology whittled away the livelihood of professional illustrators, she decided on a change of occupation. Rejecting the idea of a career in gambling (she was a serious follower of flat-racing form) she threw her energies into training in existentialist therapy and counselling, with a student posting as an HIV Test Counsellor at the Royal Free Hospital. Her teachers regarded her as gifted. But her course was interrupted by illness.

Small in size, Fogarty had charismatic presence and a combative streak. She made decisions quickly and stuck to them. A natural entertainer and mimic, she was perceptive about others, with an exceptional gift for friendship. Her close relationship with Jayne Parker, the avant-garde film maker, was creative and fulfilling. During her illness she rediscovered her closeness to her brother Leigh, who was with them both when she died at home.

ANNE BOSTON

Patricia Marion Fogarty, illustrator: born Cradock, South Africa 15 November 1940; died London 17 February 1999.

Joe 11/15/50

King Opoku Ware II of Ashanti



The Asantehene at court in Kumasi, 1995. Jean-Marc Bouju / AP

KING OPOKU Ware II was the 15th King of the Ashanti, or Asantehene. The Asantehene has succeeded in wielding traditional power over the Ashanti people of Ghana, who number some 30 per cent of the population, while at the same time managing to coexist with President Jerry Rawlings's National Democratic Congress government.

This was achieved despite the fact that the Ashanti region has supported the largest opposition party, the New Patriotic Party, and its candidate in the last presidential election, John Kufuor. The role of traditional leaders is entrenched in Ghana's constitution, in return for ceding political power to the elected government. In order to carry out this delicate balancing act the Asantehene king drew strongly on the tradition of the Asantehene.

The Ashanti kingdom was founded during the 18th century by Oponuo Osei Tutu who unified the Ashanti states through allegiance to the Golden Stool, or *Sika Agya Kofi*, which mystically symbolised the soul of Ashanti nationhood. Through bravery and skill the Ashanti dominion expanded from their central Ghanaian homeland, bringing them into conflict with the strongest colonial power at the time - Britain.

A series of wars culminated in 1873 with the capture of the Ashanti capital of Kumasi, which was looted. Some fine examples of regalia from that period are still on display at the British Museum and the Wallace Collection in London. A series of colonial administrators and further uprisings eventually led to a reconciliation between the parties, and the establishment of a British protectorate, which became part of the Gold Coast colony.

By this time the role of the Asantehene had been resurrected by King Prempeh, who was succeeded by his nephew Prempeh II, in 1931 as the occupant of the Golden Stool. During his reign the Gold Coast colony was transformed into the independent nation of Ghana in 1957. The royal succession process of the Ashanti is a matrilineal one, which meant that when his uncle Prempeh II died in 1970, Opoku Ware II (as he became) was one of several potential successors to the Golden Stool. He was subsequently nominated by the Queenmother, or *Nana Asantehemaa*, and accepted by the Ashanti people.

The Asantehene was born Jacob Matthew Poku in Kumasi, central Ghana, in 1919 into the Ashanti royal family and was educated at Anglican school before attending Adisadel College, Cape Coast. He worked as a building inspector and later with the Public Works department between 1937 and 1943 and then trained as a surveyor in Ghana, working on the Kumasi Traditional Council Hall and the Kwame Nkrumah University. He married his wife Victoria, also from Ashanti royalty, in 1945. In the 1950s he studied law in the United Kingdom and was called to the Bar in 1962. He later became

known by the Ashanti name *Barima Kwaku Adusei*.

On his return to Ghana, Adusei worked as a lawyer in Accra, before setting up a private law practice in Kumasi. Increasingly successful and respected in Ashanti politics, he was appointed to the National Liberation Council's executive board in 1968, as the Commissioner of Communications.

Adusei's life was changed inestimably in March 1970, when shortly after he was appointed the ambassador-designate to Italy, his uncle Prempeh II died. His distinguished legal career and record of public service, along with the support of his wife and family meant that he was officially enthroned in July 1970 as Asantehene, and given the added sobriquet of Otumfuo, or "the highest". Reports speak of his belief at the time that the role of Asantehene was even more important to him than representing his country, in that proper guidance for the Ashanti would lead to progress for all Ghanaians.

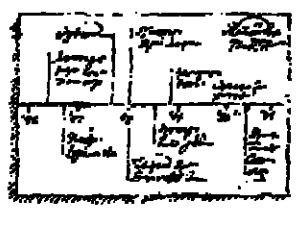
In his tenure as Asantehene Opoku Ware concentrated on local affairs and in implementing traditional tribal justice, rather than taking on a national political role in opposition to the government. This was evidenced by the support of the then President, Ignatius Acheampong, concerning disputes over the costs of the Asantehene's traditional palace in the 1970s. The Ashanti people, however, have remained active in Ghanaian national politics at all levels, particularly in opposition, and are viewed by some in government with trepidation, due to their disproportionate wealth and influence.

During the mourning period, the process to succeed Opoku Ware II has already begun, with several candidates vying for the position. In the 19th century, the funeral of the Asantehene would have meant live burial for his entourage. While that custom has been abandoned, the ritual spilling of blood on the stool will still take place, and the funeral itself will exhibit the finest Ashanti traditions of cloth and jewellery making.

Opoku Ware was unique in that his wife, Victoria, ruled almost as an Ashanti First Lady until her death in 1995, following the celebrations for the Asantehene's Silver Jubilee. Their three children will not be considered as candidates, although his son, Prince Akyempe-Hene, may be consulted. It remains to be seen if Opoku Ware's successor will follow his low-key example or attempt to formulate a more high-profile role for traditional leaders in Ghanaian politics.

JAMES WALKER

Jacob Matthew Poku (Barima Kwaku Adusei), barrister and traditional ruler: born Kumasi, Ghana 30 November 1919; called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn 1962; enthroned 1970 as King Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, 15th Asantehene; married (one son, two daughters); died Kumasi 26 February 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES

ALISON WEIR

A private, serious royal wedding

DOWN THE centuries, the marriages of royalty have more often than not been solemnised away from the public view. Most royal castles and palaces had private chapels, and it was here that kings, queens, princes and princesses made their vows. Such ceremonies were brief and witnessed only by the chief magnates of the realm. It was during the 14th century that royalty began to include the public in its nuptial celebrations, and the concept of the wedding procession was born.

The first royal wedding to take place in public was the marriage of the Prince of Wales, to Catharine of Aragon, in 1501 at St Paul's Cathedral. The bride went in procession through London, to the cheering of vast crowds, and was then escorted to a platform built in front of the cathedral, where she and Prince Arthur took their vows. As was the custom before the Reformation, the bride swore to be "bonair and buxom in bed and at board", and the royal party and their guests proceeded into the church for the nuptial mass. This was followed by a splendid feast, after which the young couple were publicly bedded together in front of many witnesses.

Henry VIII may have been married six times, but every one of those six ceremonies took place in private. His marriage to Anne Boleyn was secretly solemnised before dawn in a turret room of

Whitehall Palace; not even the Archbishop of Canterbury was certain of the date.

In the 17th century, during the time of the Stuarts, royal weddings once again became private affairs. George III and George IV met their brides only a day or so before their weddings. George III's marriage to Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz proved successful and produced 15 children, but George IV took one look at the rather malodorous Caroline of Brunswick and called for a glass of brandy. His bride recorded that he spent his wedding night lying drunk in the fireplace.

George V had been married privately in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace, but three of his six children were the first of the modern generation of royals to have public weddings. The Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Duke of Kent all went in procession to Westminster Abbey, and their nuptials were the subject of intense public interest. It was the newly married Princess Royal who, in 1922, began the tradition of making an appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

The development of the media in the 20th century has enabled the public to participate as never before in the celebrations of royal weddings. The first royal wedding to be televised was that of Princess Margaret in 1960. This was followed in rapid

succession by the wedding of the Duke of Kent. Royal wedding fever reached its height in 1981, with the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer. Never had media and public interest in a royal wedding been so intense, and it has been estimated that a hundred million people world-wide watched the event on television.

There was a similar response when Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson. During the following year, however, adverse publicity attached itself to both these marriages and, when they both broke up in the early 1990s, public disillusionment set in. The happy endings promised by the fairy-tale weddings had been an illusion; when Prince Edward announced his engagement to Sophie Rhys-Jones, it was felt that the time for change had come. Wisely, the engaged couple have opted for a more muted ceremony. They have returned to the tradition established by their forebears in an age when marriage was taken more seriously.

It is encouraging that, in an era obsessed with the superficial, Edward and Sophie have indicated their wish to accord substance precedence over style, and are perhaps setting a new trend for royal weddings.

Alison Weir is the author of *'Elizabeth the Queen'* (Pimlico, £8.99).

Damages reduced for contributory negligence

WHERE A lender, in an action for negligent overvaluation against a valuer, was found to be contributorily negligent, the reduction in his damages under section 1(1) of the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945 should be made to the amount of his loss before the application of the principle in *South Australia Asset Management Corp v York Montague Ltd*, *United Bank of Kuwait plc v Prudential Property Services Ltd*, *Nyredit Mortgage Bank plc v Edward Erdman Group plc* [1996] 3 All ER 365 (SAAMCO).

The House of Lords allowed the appeal of the plaintiff lender against the decision of the Court of Appeal, which had reduced the award of damages made in its claim for professional negligence against the defendant valuers.

The plaintiff proposed to offer to a Mr Hussain a non-status loan of £1,050,000 by way of remortgage on his home, being 70 per cent of £1.5m which he claimed to be the value of the property. The plaintiff obtained two independent valuations of the property from the defendants, each of whom valued the property at £1.5m.

Mr Hussain defaulted on the repayments and the plaintiff obtained possession of the property. It subsequently exercised its power of sale, obtaining only £435,000. The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the defendants, alleging that they had negligently overvalued the property.

The judge found that the overvaluation had amounted to £500,000. He arrived at a figure of £611,748.51 as the plaintiff's basic loss. He then made

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

5 MARCH 1999

Platform Home Loans Ltd v Oyston Shipways Ltd and others

House of Lords (Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Cooke of Thorndon, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Lord Millett) 18 February 1999

a finding of 20 per cent contributory negligence for the plaintiff's imprudence in making a non-status loan of 70 per cent of the value of the security, and awarded the plaintiff £488,388.81.

The defendants appealed, and the plaintiff cross-appealed. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that, applying the SAAMCO principles, the amount which the plaintiffs could recover was only £500,000, being the difference between the amount of the valuation and the true value of the property. Having deducted 20 per cent for contributory negligence from that figure, the plaintiffs would be awarded £400,000. The plaintiffs appealed.

Nicholas Patten QC and Andrew Walker (Rising King) for the plaintiffs; Simon Berry QC (Williams Davies Meltzer) for the first defendants and Dobb Lupton LLP (Birmingham) for the second defendants.

Lord Hobhouse said that the subject of the SAAMCO case was the question whether a lender could recover his loss in full from a negligent valuer where that loss might be attributable not only to the original negligence of the valuer but also to a subsequent fall in market values.

In applying the SAAMCO principle, the first step was to establish what was the lender's basic loss. The second step was to see whether that basic loss exceeded the amount of the overvaluation and, if it did, the lender's right of recovery was limited to the extent of the overvaluation.

The court was required by section 1(1) of the 1945 Act to form a view as to what it thought just and equitable having regard to the plaintiff's share in the responsibility for the damage and to reduce the plaintiff's recoverable damages accordingly. In the present case it would not be just and equitable that the plaintiff's recoverable damages should be reduced to £400,000 on account of contributory negligence which was already fully taken into account by reducing them to £488,388.81.

Just as Lord Hoffmann had, in SAAMCO, formulated a general principle which was easy to apply in all save exceptional cases, so also would the right answer on the application of section 1(1) be arrived at by applying the traditional percentage reduction to the lender's basic loss before making any further deduction on account of the SAAMCO principle.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

WAYMAN: John and Beryl, of Welwyn Garden City, are pleased to announce their Golden Wedding anniversary today.

DEATHS

CORNWALL-JONES: Marie Evelyn Joan (nee Hammerley-Smith), aged 88, widow of Arthur and mother of Guy, Mark, Paul and Dan. After a full life, died peacefully on Wednesday 3 March. There will be a private cremation, to be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Gregory's Church, Rotherfield Greys, Oxfordshire, on a date to be announced.

LONG: Resallind (of Woldingham, Surrey), our wonderful mother, daughter, sister-in-law, aunt and friend, died on 2 March after a courageous struggle against cancer, aged 57. Her funeral will be held at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Essendon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill, Surrey, at 2pm on Thursday 11 March. Please send donations, if desired, in place of flowers, payable to one of her favourite charities: Action Aid, Amnesty International or the Cardinal Hume Centre, care of Alex Jones Funeral Directors, 1 East Grinstead Road, Lingfield, Surrey RH17 6EP (telephone 01842 82354).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

The Hon David Astor, former Editor of *The Observer*; 87; Lady Elizabeth Basset, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother; 91; The Right Rev Thomas Butler, Bishop of Leicester; 59; Admiral Sir Simon Cassels; 71; The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, premier Earl of Scotland; 72; Mr Jim Dowd MP, a Lord Commissioner; 48; Miss Samantha Eggar, actress; 60; Mr Anthony Hedges, composer; 68; The Most Rev Bruno Heim, former Apostolic Pro-Nuncio; 88; Mr Robin Herbert, chairman, Leopold Joseph Holdings; 65; Mr Richard Hickox, conductor; 51; Mr Alan Hunt, High Commissioner to Singapore; 58; Mrs Ann Longley, former Head Mistress, Roedean; 57; Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, chairman, Macfarlane Group; 73; Miss Elspeth March, actress; 88; Sir Derek Mitchell, former senior civil servant; 77; Miss Elaine Paige, actress and singer; 47; Sir Jack Rumbold, former President, Industrial Tribunals; 79; Mr Ronald Sandler, chief executive, Lloyd's of London; 47; Mr Dean Stockwell, actor; 63; Air Marshal Sir Thomas Stenor, defence consultant; 65; Mr Barry Tuckwell, conductor and horn player; 68; Mr Des Wilson, Director of Corporate and Public Affairs, BAA plc; 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Gerhardus Mercator (Gerhard Kremer), cartographer; 1512; Sir Austen Henry

Layard, archaeologist; 1817; Sir Charles Wyville Thomson, zoologist; 1830; Howard Pyle, artist, illustrator and writer; 1853; Sir Henry Hughes Wilson, field marshal; 1864; Benjamin Franklin (Frank) Morris, novelist; 1870; Rosa Luxemburg, Spartacist (socialist) agitator; 1871; William Henry, first Barrow Beveridge, of the Beveridge Report on social insurance; 1879; Herbert Farjeon, critic and playwright; 1887; Sir Rex Carey Harrison, actor; 1908.

Deaths: Antonio Allegri da Correggio, painter; 1534; Thomas Augustine Arne, composer (*Rule, Britannia!*); 1778; Flora MacDonald, Jacobite heroine; 1790; Franz Anton Mesmer, physician and founder of "animal magnetism"; 1815; David Scott, historical painter; 1849; Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson, soldier and Orientalist; 1895; Felice Carlo Emanuele Cavallotti, anti-monarchist journalist, killed in a duel 1898; Alfredo Casella, composer; 1947; Edward Lee Masters, novelist and poet; 1950; Sergei Sergeyevich Prokofiev, composer; 1953; Joseph Stalin (Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili), Russian leader; 1953; William Cameron Menzies, film director; 1957; Anna Akhmatova (Anna Andreyevna Gorenko), poet; 1966; Mohammad Mosaddeq, politician; 1967; E.Y. "Yip" Harburg (Isidore Hochberg), composer; killed in a car crash; 1981; Tito Gobbi, baritone; 1984; William Powell, actor; 1984.

On this day, the foundation stone of New College, Oxford, was laid, 1397; soldiers fought civilians at Boston, Massachusetts, in the Boston Massacre, 1770; Covent Garden Theatre, London, was destroyed by fire, 1856; civil disobedience in India ended, 1931; the Nazis made large gains in the German general election, 1933; the Battle of the Bismarck Sea ended, 1943; Winston Churchill made a speech at Fulton, Missouri, referring to an "Iron Curtain" across Europe, 1946.

Today is the Feast Day of Saints Adrian and Eulubus, St Eusebius of Cremona, St Gerazius, St John Joseph of the Cross, St Kieran of Salgair, St Phocas of Antioch, St Piran and St Virgil of Arles.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Bridget Crowley, "Cats and Dogs (I): Pintoricchio, Penelope and her Suitors", 1pm. British Museum: Joe Cribb, "Magic Coins from Java: the Raffles collection", 11.30am.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.33pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8993. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2283. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1683. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-439 4751. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-288 2572. New London Synagogue (Gateside): 0171-322 1028.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Northern General Hospital, the Devonshire Quarter, Sheffield University and Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

The day the music died

Look what they've done to our songs... Was pop music always this trite, or have we just lost our innocence? By Barney Hoskyns

To some people, the question "Has pop music been dumbed down?" will read like a tautological joke. Pop music, they will tell you, is inherently dumb, made by dummies for dummies. It lacks, if not the power of actual speech, the ability to communicate anything meaningful. Take the good Gilbert & Sullivan, a holdout from an age when intellectuals took it for granted that Godard was superior to Hollywood, and a critic who a mere five years ago could fogeously declare that pop music was "not just trite and monotonous but actually stupefying". For Adair, the "public ubiquity" of pop music was helping to make Britain "an increasingly stupid country", and its omnipresence was all of a piece with the dumbing-down of Anglo-American popular culture.

To other people, pop's "dumbness" - its catchy disposability, its often moronic lyrics - is precisely what makes it great. They will argue that pop music has no business consorting with Art, that it's all about a kind of creative innocence. In *The Accidental Evolution of Rock'n'Roll* (1997), Chuck Eddy notes that his fellow rock writers "increasingly look down their noses at anything that's fast and catchy with intelligible words", but claims that what most entertains him is "the stuff punk or grunge or hip-hop supposedly rebelled against".

Still others will tell you that the great Pop vs Posh debate is a dead issue: that, living as we are in Andy Warhol's postmodern, 15-minute, soup-can universe, the very distinction between High and Low Art has been eroded forever. In a cultural climate where a book called *How Proust Can Change Your Life* can be published, they'll argue, who any longer has the right to set up barriers between Highbrow and Low-

brow? Even "classical" music (the Three Tenors, Vanessa-Mae) is dumbing itself down these days.

I fear the latter may be closest to the truth. As we slouch towards Y2K, we all seem to be captive to a fever dream of fame, spellbound by a mushrooming celebrity culture in which all that really matters is exposure. Where once we would have been happy to ignore the latest blockbuster film or presidential scandal and retreat into our novels and art films, now we feel compelled to form opinions about *Twilight* and the dummy icon that is Monica Lewinsky. And if the whole world is dumbing itself down - "tabloidifying" itself, in the words of *Vanity Fair* - how is pop music of all things expected not to follow suit? No wonder "pop" no longer means Pulp and Pearl Jam, but B'witched and Britney Spears.

Just how dumb "is" pop music? When Elvis Presley first exploded out of Memphis in 1954, what was so galvanising about him was the way he used his rural roots - in blues and country songs - to fashion a lusty teenage music that aggressively challenged Middle America's entertainment mainstream.

Ah, you'll say: funny you should mention Presley. Wasn't his career the perfect illustration of pop dumbing itself down to a point of woeful farce? Well, yes: but the nuclear epiphany of "That's Alright, Mama" to the imbecile dullness of "Do The Clam". Elvis all but drowned in the quicksand of Colonel Tom Parker's schlock. (Nor was he blind to what was happening.) But what Elvis achieved in those electrifying 1950s singles, and intermittently through the 60s and 70s, was about as un-dumb, as viscerally eloquent as anything created in the name of "popular culture" this century.

Forty-five years on from its birth, the biggest change is that so little of today's pop music issues from any

genuine sense of community or tradition. It's as though we've all become citizens of some virtual world, a hypermall of instant sensation in which pop music is pre-packaged according to market research. Forget the days when Elvis could cover an Arthur Crudup blues song on one side of a Sun single and a Bill Monroe bluegrass song on the other - today's hits sound as if they were written by computers.

More dismaying still is how will-



DUMB BRITANNIA 4. POP MUSIC

ing we've become to dismiss pop's artistic aspirations. It's as if we've all accepted that art simply equals success. For isn't it easier to pretend that Robbie Williams is a great "ironic" pop star than to follow the strange, wayward careers of people (Paddy McAloon, Mark Hollis, Aphex Twin, Baby Bird, PJ Harvey, to take random examples) who actually have something to say? For all the hosannas heaped upon Radiohead's magnificent *OK Computer* (1997) - an album precisely about the soullessness of our techno-numbed culture - there were just as many people who derided it as wanky "progressive" rock. In a world where we're expected to take Chris Evans seriously, is it any wonder that Radiohead are deemed to be po-faced?

"It's such a hard time in music, where more and more people have to get in and get what they can," says Beck, one of the few truly compelling pop artists of the decade. "In the early 1990s, there was this consciousness connecting everyone of my age - a consciousness of mistrust, of the rotten fruit of the 1980s. We'd all been turned off at that point, and were searching for something genuine. And then there was a year where the industry tried to figure out what this was all about. And they're pretty crafty. They just went out and hired a bunch of us."

If pop is "dumb" today, it isn't because the artists are any thicker than they were 30 years ago. It's because of something far more insidious: to wit, the music industry figuring out how, in the words of Janis Joplin's biographer Myra Friedman, to "market the very unmarketability" of hands who would once have raged against the machine. Just as Marcuse predicted it would, back in the 1960s, society has taken what the counterculture threw at it, reprocessed it, and sold it back to "the kids": the Sex Pistols are Levi's models, Courtney Love wears Isaac Mizrahi. For a nominal fee (your soul, preferably) MTV will package a body-pierced ska-pop Spring Break lifestyle just for you. Marketing is control.

"Rock'n'roll... no longer seems to mean anything," Greil Marcus wrote despairingly in 1992. He added that "sweeping affirmations" of pop records "always bring forth a chorus of sceptics, happy to forsake the mysteries of art and culture for the facts of entertainment". Seven years on, his words ring truer than ever. For the handful of mavericks out there making music for music's sake - artists who wouldn't know "synergy" if it

bopped them over the head with a platinum disc - there are thousands of tattooed poseurs who don't care what it takes to get their 15 minutes of fame. No wonder the Californian pin-up Sugar Ray called their new album *14.59*. Now that's what I call ironic...

It's frightening to realise that the Beatles went from "I Want To Hold Your Hand" to Sgt Pepper's *Lovely Lonely Hearts Club Band* in the space of four years. To reflect that Brian Wilson progressed from "Surfer USA" to *Pet Sounds* in three, did pop matter back then, or were we just dreaming?

Where once to be a pop fan meant being part of the counterculture tribe - a shadowy mass of people who read underground magazines and sought out obscure records in dingy basements - now pop is everywhere and for everyone.

What is slightly shocking to someone like me, who came of age as a pop music fan in the 1970s, is realising just how irrelevant

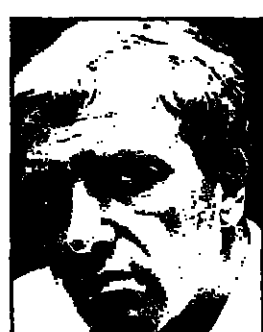
the pantheon of rock heroes has become: the Stones are a joke, Neil Young is an old fart, Page and Plant are dinosaurs. The idea of a time when these people mattered seems gone for good. Does it all come down to a kind of cultural entropy? Is it easier to give up, go with the flow: read *HELLO!* and *Loaded*, listen to the Corrs and Natalie Imbruglia?

"Our musical cultural values

have become so relative," wrote Stephen Holden in Sunday's *New York Times*, "that the Beatles, Dylan, Gershwin and Sinatra now rank side-by-side in public esteem with the likes of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Celine Dion and Neil Diamond. For in today's musical climate, whatever you declare to be art must be art, and forget the snobs who think differently." For the sake of pop's future, let us hope to God he is wrong.



HOW DUMB ARE WE?



"Pop has always been a dumbing-down of rock music, and rock has always been anti-establishment. But now that the rock generation has grown up, the anti-establishment has become the establishment. The music industry has become an off-shoot of the leisure and drugs industries."

Simon Napier Bell
former manager of The Yardbirds, T-Rex, Japan and WHAM!

"Music has become much more of a marketing venture, with a general desire to stick to the boy band-girl band formulae." **Alan Miller**
MD of London's Vibe Bar multimedia centre, who

is chairing "Pop Goes Politics" at the Culture Wars conference

The writers will speak at 'Culture Wars, Dumbing Down, Wising Up?' at the Riverside Studios, London W8, 5-7 March. Tomorrow: Hot air or cold facts? David Lister concludes 'Dumb Britannia'

CLASSIFIED

Arts & Crafts

CREATIVE BEADCRAFT LTD

Also trading as
ELLS & FARRIER
Specialists in

- BEADS
- SEQUINS
- DIAMANTE AND LUREX BRAIDS
- IMITATION PEARLS
- JEWELLERY FINDINGS
- IMITATION STONES
- FEATHERS

LARGEST SELECTIONS OF ITEMS
AVAILABLE FROM STOCK

MAIL ORDER
CATALOGUE
AVAILABLE £3.50

MAIL ORDER & ENQUIRIES (WHOLESALE AND RETAILERS)

Denmark Works, Beaumont End,
Amersham, Bucks HP7 QRX

Tel: (01494) 715606 Fax: (01494) 718510

Personal callers:

20 Beak Street, London W1R 3HA

Charities

SOCIETY FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF LADIES IN REDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES

Founded by the late Miss Edith Smallwood
Charity Registration No. 285798

- ★ The Society assists, by charitable grants, ladies of British Nationality living alone on low incomes and domiciled in the British Isles.
- ★ We welcome enquiries from those who may need our help or from those wishing to support the Society.

A Preliminary Application Form and further information may be obtained from:

The Secretary S.A.L.R.C. (I),
Lancaster House, 25 Hornby Road,
Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 1QQ

For Sales

DOES SITTING MAKE YOUR BACK ACHE?

BACKFRIEND

...a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept...



...a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept...

...a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept...

...a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept...

...a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept...

...a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept... a revolutionary new concept...

The buzz of rebellion

MARK STEEL



ON LOCATION

THERE'S A joke I've been telling, that had almost gone out of date. It's that New Labour's rule that students must pay £1,000 a year in tuition fees, comes from a government which said its three priorities were "education, education and education". It's as though the Tories had got Michael Heseltine to say "This government has three priorities: mining, mining and mining".

For 18 months the fees appeared to be meekly accepted, confirming that students are not the section of society most noted for their sense of urgency. They'll tell you they're in a real state right, "cos like basically, they've got to get a 4,000 word essay written and, like, basically, actually handed in by tomorrow morning. You say "That's outrageous. When did they give it you to do?", and they answer "a year ago last April".

But suddenly, students are demonstrating and occupying buildings in protest against the fees. One of the most enthusiastic of these occupations is at Goldsmith's College in south-east London, where my partner, a mature student, last weekend joined in an occupation of a lecture theatre.

The issue which finally provoked the protest was a letter to eight students who were having difficulty paying the fees, informing them they were no longer allowed on the college premises. In the classic manner of bureaucratic letters which impart devastating decisions, it consisted of three and a half curt lines, followed by a huge blank space. The blank spaces on official letters are to let you know how unimportant you are, and that as the writer dictated it, they were thinking "I'll just be a moment wrecking someone's life and then I can go to lunch".

So 300 students took control of the psychology wing of the college, barricaded themselves in, renamed one room the "Stephen Lawrence Lecture Theatre", and renamed the toilet the "Ben Pinnott room" after the head of the college. And distressingly, they're far more organised than students are supposed to be. You might imagine that an occupation would consist of hundreds of dribbling, squinting forms, emerging from

sleeping bags to meander across chickpea-stained plates and half-burned joss-sticks, to ask each other whether they've missed *Teletubbies*. But instead they're kept tidy by the cleaning committee, secure by the security committee, and educated by the academic committee.

But amidst the organisation and enthusiasm, the authorities have hit back. They shut off access to the occupied building, insisting that no-one could enter unless they were a "blood relative" of a college resident. So to visit I had to conduct an elaborate series of subterfuges, making me feel like an old Soviet dissident. By the time I arrived, I felt I should tell the committee I was to be known only as the oblong one, and that my message should be "the owl and the pussycat have gone to sea".

The college hierarchy also informed nearby residents to beware of the occupiers, because they believed (falsely) one of them was responsible for "the burglary of a bathroom". Maybe detectives should have been sent round to say to everyone "Alright sonny, have you got a receipt for this toothpaste?"

On Sunday evening a meeting of all the occupiers took place, filling the lecture hall with a frenetic sense of energy and anticipation, which physically jolted you as you entered the room, like an invisible forcefield on a dodgy planet in *Star Trek*.

Comedian Rob Newman and delegations of local teachers and council workers spoke in support and were cheered, as was anyone else who said anything at all. Everyone who

spoke waved their arms, beamed with confidence, and got at least one big laugh. And immediately afterwards the corridors crackled with students eagerly filling out rotas, huddling into committees, chalking things on boards, saying "right, cool" and then walking off in an earnest hurry, and arranging deliveries of chocolate spread. "It's like a festival", said Kerrie, who'd been all night on security, attended a meeting at 8am, and was so excited she spoke for over five minutes without a single punctuation mark.

But the most striking part of this atmosphere is the sense of a release of bottled-up frustration. Possibly without realising it, the students are symbols of a widespread mood. They're against the tuition fees, but they were against them last week and the week before. The difference is that until the occupation, they felt betrayed by the New Labour whose victory they'd celebrated, but had no idea that anything could be done about it.

But no-one could be as exuberant as these students solely from staging a protest against fees. The occupation has provided an outlet for all the other disappointments with New Labour. One student I spoke to was livid about the bombing of Baghdad; another was astonished at the latest restrictions on asylum seekers. The priorities differ, but the overwhelming feeling is that this is magnificent, because at last we're doing something. "It's about everything that winds you up", said Andy, "whether it's the fees, or the Government or because you've split up from your girlfriend". Though I'm not sure how you incorporate that last one into the list of demands.

But imagine if it caught on, and offices, fire stations and supermarkets had sleeping bags scattered around the floor, while the workforce sat in a corner debating which was the best album by The Smiths.

And there's something brilliant about the occupied building being the psychology department. Because if anyone shouts that the college has been unfairly disrupted, the occupiers can put on their calmest voice and say "Hm. Have you ever considered that this anger is a sign of your own insecurity?"

And P is for Polymath

Born 250 years ago, Goethe is one of the greatest figures of European civilization: poet, playwright, scientist, prime minister, author of the first bestseller and founder of modern German literature. Kevin Jackson presents an A to Z of his life and works

A is for Auden WH Auden not only admired the man he called "Mr G", he felt a deep affection for him. It saddened Auden to think that the British, though we are happy enough to agree that Goethe should join Dante and Shakespeare in the triad of Major League European writers ("Daunt, Gouty and Shopkeeper", Joyce called the old firm in *Finnegans Wake*), seldom bother to read him. Auden tried hard to pique our interest, and the three sprightly essays he wrote on Goethe provide an ideal short introduction: they can be found in his collection *Forewords and Afterwords*.

B is for Biology Goethe was as much a scientist as an artist, and carried out research in botany, geology, physics, psychology and meteorology: one historian has even credited him with having provided the groundwork for modern weather forecasting. His most substantial discovery, however, was in the field of biology. In March 1784, Goethe refuted conventional wisdom by showing that the inter-maxillary bone – a part of the jaw – existed in man as well as the other mammals. Despite this anatomical coup, Goethe the scientist is best remembered for his rather more eccentric work in optics, which is why...

C is for Colour Partly an attack on Newton (or what he thought Newton was saying), Goethe's *Theory of Colours* is a fascinating, if fanciful, work which cost him many years of effort. "I do not regret it at all," he told a friend a few years before his death, "though I have expended half a life upon it. Perhaps I might have written half-a-dozen tragedies more; that is all, and people enough will come after me to do that."

D is for "Dichtung und Wahrheit" Or *Poetry and Truth*, Goethe's detailed autobiographical account of his youth. Why so detailed? "The most important part of an individual's life is that of development... Afterwards begins the conflict with the world, and that is interesting only in its results." That, at least, is what he told the man who has been described as "Goethe's photocopy"...

E is for Eckermann As Boswell to Johnson, so Eckermann to Goethe. Nietzsche called Eckermann's *Conversations with Goethe* (1836) "the best German book there is".

F is for "Faust" He began *Part One* in his early twenties: he put the finishing touches to *Part Two* some 60 years later, on 22 July 1831, may have fiddled with it a bit shortly before his death in 1832. In short, this vast play was his life's work. David Luke's prize-winning translation for Oxford World's Classics is the looser version by Louis MacNeice, Howard Brenton and Randall Jarrell.

G is for German It is not true to say that Goethe invented the German language, but it's not altogether preposterous, either. In the careful words of the scholar TJ Reed: "He was the first to explore fully (which means that he virtually created) the expressive registers of modern German."

H is for "Hermann und Dorothea" Not much read now, except by specialists, and noted in reference books mainly as an instance of that rare literary form, the verse novel, but in its own day (1798) a considerable success with the reading public. "Almost the only one of my larger poems that still satisfies me," was Goethe's verdict in old age.

I is for Italy On 2 September 1786, aged 37 and suffering from the onset of what we now call a mid-life crisis, Goethe adopted the pseudonym of "Herr Moeller" and made a bolt for Italy. The two years he spent in and around Rome changed him utterly: he gorged his eyes on the art and architecture, he learned to draw and, it appears, he enjoyed his first adult love. Auden, contrasting portraits painted before and after the stay in Rome, asserted that the latter showed "a man who has known sexual satisfaction". The book which im-



Goethe takes to the ice: one historian even credited him with discovering weather forecasting

Hulton Getty

mortalised these experiences, the *Italian Journey* (*Italienische Reise*), was co-translated by Auden, who hoped that it was the text most likely to wean English readers from their assumption that Goethe is a tiresome old bore.

J is for Jaxhausen The main setting of *Goetz von Berlichingen*, Goethe's earliest play, written in 1773 when he was 24. Heavily influenced by Shakespeare, *Goetz* is a sprawling, episodic and often violent work set in the early years of the 16th century. John Arden wrote a free but powerful adaptation of the play in 1963, calling it *Ironhand*. A major revival is long overdue.

K is for Knowledge Who was the last great polymath? Leonardo? Pico della Mirandola? Well, if Goethe did not acquire competence in every human endeavour, it wasn't for want of trying. Only astronomy failed to catch his interest. And if anyone since the Renaissance has actually known "all there is to be known", that man was not Mr Toad, but Mr G.

L is for *Lehrjahre* That is, *Wilhelm Meister's Lehrjahre* (*Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*). Goethe's long novel about a young man's coming of age. Schlegel thought its publication an event as momentous as the French Revolution. Though this now seems a trifle excessive, the book has lasted surprisingly well, and fragments from it still crop up in the most unexpected places. Jean-Luc Godard

quoted it extensively in his film about a later generation of French revolutionaries, *La Chinoise*, and Wim Wenders took it as the basis for his road movie *Wrong Movement*.

M is for Music Beethoven (*Egmont* overture), Schubert ("Wer nie sein Brot", *Schumann* (*Scenes from Faust*), Liszt (*A Faust Symphony*), Gounod (*Faust*), Wolf ("Kennst du das Land"), Mahler (*Symphony No 8*)... outside Germany, Goethe is often better known for inspiring composers than as an artist in his own right. A music lover himself (he may have beaten Schelling to the famous perception that architecture is "frozen music"), he might not have been too disgruntled at the fact.

N is for Nature "I have never observed Nature with a view to poetic production," he told Eckermann. Early Goethe has been compared to Wordsworth, albeit, one should probably add, a Wordsworth with degrees in geology, botany, meteorology, anatomy, physics.

O is for Orientalism At the age of 65, Goethe re-invented himself for the nth time by writing a group of poems, the *West-östlicher Divan*, in imitation of the Persian lyricist Mahomed Shems-ud-din, otherwise known as Hafiz. Many of these are erotic; a few – the *Shenke* (Cupbearer) group – nonchalantly homoerotic. Calm yourself, gay scholars: there's not much else in his oeuvre to win Goethe a place in any homosexual pantheon.

P is for Poetry "Goethe is, above all else, a poet" – TJ Reed. And, like all poets, stubbornly hard to translate. Here's one valiant attempt, by Longfellow, of one of his most famous poems:

Über allen Gipfeln
Ist Ruh.
In allen Wipfeln
Spürest du
Kauern einen Hauch
Die Vögelin schweigen
Im Walde.
Warte nur, balde
Ruhest du auch.

O'er all the hill-tops
Is quietude
In all the tree-tops
Hearest thou
Hardly a breath;
The birds are asleep
In the trees.
Wait, soon like these
Thou, too, shalt rest.

Q is for Quality Goethe's scientific writings place so much stress on the importance of qualitative rather than quantitative knowledge that people thought that he was an enemy of mathematics in all its forms. Not so, he replied; mathematics are "the most sublime and useful science", but only in their proper place. "It would be foolish for a man

not to believe in his mistress's love because she cannot prove it mathematically."

R is for Roman Elegies Or *Römische Elegien* (1788-90). Goethe's first fully Classical work, written after his Italian journey, in emulation of the love poets Catullus, Propertius and Tibullus. It is blissfully sexy, full of lifted skirts, discarded corsets and creaking beds; Auden seems to have known what he was talking about.

S is for "Sturm und Drang" Literally "Storm and Stress," the nickname of a group of wild young writers of the 1770s, of whom Goethe was the star.

T is for "Torquato Tasso" A verse drama (published 1790) based on the Renaissance poet Torquato Tasso (1554-1596), about which it is conventional to remark that it says more about Goethe than Tasso, and considerably less conventional to remark that it is the first drama of the "Romantic dilemma between the demands of the aesthetic and of the practical life" (David Luke).

U is for "Urpflanzen" or "primal phenomenon" – in Goethe's philosophy, a kind of archetype or essential form which the intelligent eye may detect in its particular manifestations, such as the "primal plant" (*Urpflanze*), a basic structure uniting all existing plants. The literary historians say that this idea burst upon him in Palermo. The keepers of the botanical gardens in Padua, where you can see the "Goethe Tree" to this day, say otherwise.

V is for Victorians "Minds like Goethe's are the common property of all nations," Carlyle insisted in the preface to his 1834 translation of *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*. Victorian intellectuals agreed: for the likes of George Eliot, G Lewes and Matthew Arnold, Goethe was one of the formative spirits of the modern world. Arnold wrote that "no persons [are] so thoroughly modern, as those who have felt Goethe's influence most deeply".

W is for Weimar This small German principality was Goethe's base for almost all his productive life, from 1775 when he accepted the invitation to become its Prime Minister; a provincial backwater which, thanks to him, became a cultural whirlpool.

X is for "Xenien" The name of a collection of sarcastic squibs written by Goethe and Schiller. Goethe was proud of them: "The good effects which the *Xenien* had upon the German literature of their time are beyond calculation."

Y is for "Young Werther" or *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* (1774), the short novel about a sensitive lad who affects a blue frock-coat and kills himself after an unhappy love affair. This precocious bestseller made Goethe at 25 famous throughout Europe – "an early exemplar of the rock star", as an American critic recently wrote – and it remained the one book everyone who visited him in Weimar was bound to know. (Napoleon told Goethe that he had read it seven times.) Some historians say that the stories about its prompting a wave of copycat suicides are apocryphal, but it does seem to have boosted sales of blue frock-coats. Its enduring popularity made *Young Werther* something of a stone around the neck of its ageing author; and yet...

Z is for Zelter On 3 December 1822, at the age of 73, Goethe told his good friend Karl Friedrich Zelter that he felt quite capable of writing a second *Werther*, which would make people's hair stand on end. For all his hard-won serenity – to put it more crudely, his reputation as a tedious old wise man – Goethe plainly felt that his work was far from finished. In a sense, it remains unfinished. As Nietzsche wrote in *Human, All Too Human*: "one can claim that Goethe's effect has not yet been fully realised, and that his time is yet to come."

Goethe Weekend tomorrow and Sunday at the South Bank Centre, London, SE1 with concerts and readings. Tel: 0171 960 4242 or www.sbc.org.uk. Further information on other events throughout this year can be found on www.goethe.de/gr/lon/emp99.htm.

A ghost of a fine drama

IN JOHN Crowley's spartan West End production of *Macbeth*, there is a baffling and characteristically perverse staging of the celebrated scene in which a supper party, thrown by the newly crowned Macbeth, is disrupted when the butchered Banquo's ghost makes two appearances to the bloody tyrant. In the version originated here, we see Banquo being brutally battered to death and then, in an eerie dissolve, the banquet table descends and covers his corpse.

So far, so clever (he's the couple's hidden secret). The trouble is that in the subsequent scene, his spectre never actually emerges. So when Rufus Sewell's terrified Macbeth re-monstrates with what looks like an empty stool, flings wine over it, and fur-

iously stabs it, he seems to be going bonkers.

The perspective of the theatre audience is scarcely different from that of the embarrassed guests, whereas the drama of this brilliant episode depends purely upon the disparity between their view of the unfolding situation and ours. We know, chillingly, that it is not, or not only, in Macbeth's imagination.

If the ghost fails to materialise in the above scene, then so does any real sense of the horror and harrowing sadness of this tragedy in the production as a whole.

Rufus Sewell is a fine, sexy actor and elsewhere has moistened many a gusset with his Byronic smouldering. But, stockier and more bullet-

THEATRE
MACBETH
QUEEN'S THEATRE
LONDON

headed than of yore, he looks to be badly out of his depth in this killer-role, which has defeated an illustrious list of leading thespians from Peter O'Toole to Derek Jacobi.

Deploying a tight, husky voice, he wrenches the rhythms of the verse this way and that, and is either too indolently slow and mannered or gabbly fast. Listening to his speeches is like trying to study the beauties of an Old Master drawing while it's being dangled in a tearing, capricious wind. Shakespeare's characterisa-

tion of Macbeth is a mastery study in moral disintegration, but its supreme genius lies in the way the hero continues to excite an appalled human sympathy. "I 'gin to be aware of the sun" is one of the greatest lines in the canon, its drained music that of a man who has been hollowed out by experience. Not here, though, with a Macbeth who kicks the walls like a petulant schoolboy.

Matters would be helped if one could begin to believe in the hero's marriage to Sally Dexter's pneumatic, raven-tressed and significantly older Lady Macbeth. Dexter, too, can be a formidable actress. But here the crudeness of the direction defeats her. The unravelling of the couple's relationship, with the murder of

Duncan as the watershed, is signalled with all the subtlety of a "Before and After" advert. First seen with her swelling bosoms barely confinable within a precipitously plunging neckline, Dexter appears, post-killing and Coronation, buttoned up to the nostrils. It's that telegraphic.

In a recent interview, Sewell quipped that "most Shakespeare productions do fail... at least with *Macbeth*, they have an excuse". A carry insurance policy: for with its risibly uncreaky Olrish witches and its glassed-in and unthreatening apparitions, like exhibits from the V&A costume department, this production needs all the excuses it can find.

PAUL TAYLOR
Box office: 0171-494 5040



Sally Dexter and Rufus Sewell

Geraint Lewis

"A UNIQUE, UNMISSABLE COMEDY MASTERPIECE"
What's On
"THEATRICAL BRILLIANCE"
The Times
SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW
"THE SINGLE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING I HAVE EVER SEEN IN THEATRE IN MY LIFE"
Simon Callow, Sunday Express
PICCADILLY THEATRE Until 10 April 5 Weeks Only!
Denman Street London W1 0171 369 1734 • 0171 344 4444

IN SATURDAY'S
DESIGN PAGES
How young
designers are
being inspired by
Jackson Pollock's
action paintings
at the Tate
Your Money,
page 12

SADLER'S WELLS AND IMPRESARIAT WIM VISSER PRESENT
PACO PEÑA
FLAMENCO DANCE COMPANY
"Flamenco at
its finest -
modern,
sophisticated
and tantalising"
Evening Standard
RUN EXTENDED TO 20 MARCH
DOWN TO EARTH PRICES! MANY SEATS UNDER £20
MUSA GITANA
Peacock Theatre
Sadler's Wells in the West End
Box Office: 0171 863 8222 • Tickets £7.50 - £32.50

JP Miss 1550

1520 من الال

MUSIC

Jagger sings the blues

The Stones have always been a blues band at heart, so it was natural for Mick Jagger to record with a blues legend. He talks about working with the late Jimmy Rogers - and the current tour. By Pierre Perrone

I wasn't that aware of Jimmy Rogers until I went to see him in a club many years ago," admits Mick Jagger. I'm asking him about his contribution to *Blues Blues*, the album Rogers, born in Ruleville, Mississippi in 1934, nearly completed before his death in December 1997. "I never saw him play with Muddy Waters or anything," says Jagger, "but I connected (that) he was one of the guys who backed Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter and Sonny Boy Williamson. Jimmy was on a lot of Chess sessions and he made one album I had with that tune 'Sloppy Drunk' on it. I used to do that one."

I suggest the legendary Rogers might have featured on the Muddy Waters album sleeve which attracted Mick's attention back in 1960, soon after he met Keith Richards on a Dartford-bound train. After all, the pair named their band after a Waters song.

Jagger laughs politely. "Anyway, I did a show four or five years ago in London for the launch of National Music Day. Jimmy Rogers was on the bill and, after that, I saw him around in Chicago. I certainly don't recall meeting him when we recorded at Chess studios in the Sixties."

Jagger claims Rogers was the first musician to play electric blues, influencing everyone from Freddie King to the British blues boom of the 60s. He was also a prolific songwriter who penned "Sweet Home Chicago", "That's All Right" and "Ludella". When news came that John and Elaine Koenig and Atlantic Records' supremo Ahmet Ertegun were in Los Angeles putting together recordings to celebrate Jimmy Rogers' unique contribution to the blues, Jagger and Richards jumped at the chance to get involved. The Glimmer Twins joined an illustrious guest-list which eventually included Jeff Healey, Taj Mahal, Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, Stephen Stills and Eric Clapton (a Rogers devotee who recorded several Rogers compositions on his *From The Cradle* album). But forget Carlos Santana hijacking John Lee Hooker's "The Healer", forget UB40 and BB King's duet on "When Love Comes To Town", forget Ron Wood jamming with Bo Diddley: *Blues Blues* is the real deal.

"I just did whatever they wanted me to do really. I was there to sing," says Jagger about his involvement. "Jimmy was pretty good but he was really ill. We were doing the vocals in the booth and I didn't know he was pretty sick. No one said anything. You make allowances for people his age and he was pretty good considering how ill he was. It was fun trading the verses around. It was all done live. They maybe touched up a couple of his things afterwards but they didn't touch mine 'cause I went back and never returned."

"They were all done in one afternoon. The trickiest was the Sonny Boy Williamson one. 'Don't Start Me to

Talkin'". The timing is really odd, it's the only one I had to do again. The other ones ['Trouble No More', a Muddy Waters composition and Rogers' own 'Goin' Away Baby'] I knew really well. But, in the end, I think that 'Don't Start Me to Talkin' is the most interesting track. It just sounds really good and that band is so quiet. I'm not exaggerating. I walked into that studio and I didn't know whether they were playing or not. I could hardly hear them. I thought, Keith likes to play really loud, how is he gonna manage? But it's a good reminder of how these guys used to record. They were very much in that school, they probably recorded those things that we know very well at that volume. That drummer is incredibly quiet, whatever his name is." (It's Ted Harvey, actually.) I ask about the rest of the team.



Jagger claims that Rogers was the first musician to play electric blues

The great Johnnie Johnson, a veteran of dozens of Chuck Berry and Albert King sessions, is on piano, while The Fabulous Thunderbirds' Kim Wilson hogged the harmonica. Jagger says he didn't mind that. "Wilson is a LA session player. He's not bad. If you're playing harmonica, you have to play all the time. You can't expect to just pick it up and be as good as someone who plays every night. I'm OK now because we're doing 'Midnight Rambler' in our set on tour but then, I was playing mostly guitar and keyboards."

In 1997, when the *Blues Blues* sessions took place, the Stones were halfway through their own *Bridges To Babylon* album. "The two experiences were completely different," he remembers fondly, "like walking out of some electronic thing and into Chicago in the other room." Some electronic thing is right. The last Stones studio effort was notable for unexpected collaborations with Danny Saber, while the singles boasted unusual remixes by The Dust Brothers and hip DJ team Deep Dish.

Somewhat, this backs up my theory that the Stones are at their best when they are closest to their blues

roots or the furthest away from them in mad "Continental Drift" mode (to pick another recent example from the *Steel Wheels* album). Jagger concurs. "Yeah, I like that. To go in the most extreme direction possible is to me the most fun. I like to hear the Stones playing really live blues all the way to someone doing a crazy remix. I find that the most amusing. We're a band that can do all those things. Of course, we don't do them all equally well, but the fact that we can function and be convincing in all these genres is great."

"There was a funny piece I saw the other week in an American mag, trying to pick out our lesser-known songs and they were saying stuff like: 'Which blues band plays an Elizabethan ballad?' Not that Jagger is serenading Lady Jane on the current US tour, which sees the Stones playing arenas rather than stadiums and charging premium ticket prices. "We're doing 'Route 66', 'Moonlight Mile' from *Sticky Fingers*, stuff we've never done before."

In an infamous BBC radio interview, support act Sheryl Crow said that touring with the Stones was not like Cocksucker Blues anymore. Jagger guffaws at the mention of Robert Frank's shelved 1972 documentary, more sex and drugs than rock'n'roll, which the band allegedly rejected because they'd "played up to the cameras". "Things have certainly changed a lot. Because we're playing slightly smaller places and it's indoors, it's much more direct. You can see everyone, the look on their faces, whether they like the songs or they don't really care or they don't know them. It's quite hard work because there are no gimmicks; whatever you do can be seen out there! You've got to be aware 360 degrees. I've had a cold lately and, every time I blow my nose, they can see me. You really feel you're on 100 per cent of the time."

The Stones tour will reach British shores this summer while *No Security*, the group's seventh live album, came out last year. But what about those BBC sessions, those Seventies out-takes? We finally got the *Rock'n'Roll Circus* on CD, but how likely is a Stones box-set before 2000? "Nothing's planned to come out at the moment, but I'm sure it will one day. Not next year, but maybe the year after," says Jagger. "We've got a lot of good stuff from all periods, but I'm not really sure I want to do all the librarian work. My approach to the history of the Rolling Stones is somewhat ambivalent. I like to do what I'm doing now and I'd love to hear some of the old stuff, but I don't want to be listening for hours and hours. You feel like you're living in the past too much. I would prefer someone else to do the spade work."

'Blues Blues Blues' by the Jimmy Rogers All Stars is out on Atlantic Records. The Rolling Stones are touring the US and play in the UK in June



It was like walking into Chicago,' says Mick Jagger of his work on Jimmy Rogers' *'Blues Blues Blues'* Dave Hogan

MICHAEL CHURCH
Once, great music was written for castrati but they died out. Then came the countertenor

Steve Earle and the Del McCoury Band
A unique combination of Nashville's finest string players with the best bluegrass band working today

May 18th	Bradford St Georges Hall	01274 752 000
20th	London Royal Festival Hall	0171 960 4242
21st	Coventry Warwick Arts Centre	01203 524524
23rd	Cheltenham Town Hall	01242 579425
24th	Liverpool Philharmonic Hall	0151 709 3789
25th	Glasgow Clyde Auditorium	0141 287 7777

Extra Dates for June: London Shepherd's Bush Empire 0771 771 9000

Tables for London only also available (subject to seating from The Theatre, 24 Hour Credit Card Line on 0171 344 0340 and selected clubs, some records and Watsons Stores, Stratford 0171 724 0332)

Now the great music on the new album from Steve Earle and the Del McCoury Band: 'The Mountain' available now on E Squared/Grassvine

LYRIC SHEETS
MARTIN NEWELL

The Rise and Rise of Robbie

Currently at the top of his career, having collected three Brit Awards last month, Robbie Williams completed his UK tour this week

A blueprint for a pop star You couldn't make it up From prefab into rehab In a minute. Out, seemingly in seconds And back into the fray The Growing Up In Public sketch Not in it	And "Robbie Williams Poster" For ailing magazines Becomes the only option Which remains
Despite the rabid headlines The boy-band albatross And ligging with Oasis All the rest Comparisons with sportsmen... He came out in the wash As not exactly Gazza More George Best	The one that really did it The single biggest shock Was when the critics found That he could sing "Pop Artist Found With Talent" No journalistic nous Can ever brace you for That kind of thing
Adonis with a beer-gut You know he's at the top When women are discussing him On trains	From space cadet at Glasto Through jousting with Tom Jones To platinum-selling songs Penned on a bus The odds were stacked against it He's twenty-five years old So is he not a pop star then? Discuss

HMV recommendscountry

 THE MOUNTAIN - STEVE EARLE AND THE DEL MCCOURY BAND A unique combination of Nashville's finest string players and the best bluegrass band around	 SIMPLE GEARLE - STACEY EARLE Melodic and sparkling country-folk songs from Steve Earle's sister. Raw, earthy lyrics prove Stacey's very much her own woman.	 WHAT I DESERVE - KELLY WILLIS She's been called "The voice of Austin" and "An angel with hell-scoured wings". If you like Lucinda Williams, you'll love this.
 ALWAYS NEVER THE SAME - GEORGE STRAIT Following his continued success at the US Country Music Awards, George's latest and possibly finest album includes his next single "Memphis"	 THE CAPITOL YEARS 65/77 - GLEN CAMPBELL A decade of honey-smooth country pop, showcasing Glen's immense contribution to music, from "Wichita Lineman" to the 70's classic "Rhinestone Cowboy"	 SHAVER VICTORY - BILLY JOE & EDDY SHAVER An achingly beautiful and pure country gospel album with an exceptional collection of previously unreleased material.

buy now from over 100 stores nationwide or www.hmv.co.uk or 0950 33 45 78

topdogformusic

Norway's new nightingale

Thanks to her childlike voice and airy-fairy songs, Anja Garbarek is often compared to Björk. But her jazz-musician father has been her main influence. By Fiona Sturges

There are many parallels to be drawn between Anja Garbarek's aesthetic sensibilities and her music. The daughter of the jazz pioneer Jan Garbarek wears a faded black T-shirt over the top of a delicate silk shirt and a floor-length quilted skirt that could have been an elderdown in a previous life. Her North London flat is a cavern of conflicting lime greens, oranges and searing pinks, where macabre sado-masochistic photographs hang innocently on the wall between family snapshots and kaleidoscopic paintings.

In accordance, Garbarek's curiously titled album, *Balloon Moods*, blends bubbly, syncopated rhythms with staccato string and brass arrangements and edgy percussive sounds – light years away from the sax jazz stylings of her father. Garbarek's lyrics recount spooky stories and skewed childhood memories, though they are lent a fairy-tale ambience by her extraordinarily child-like vocals. Imagine JM Barrie's Wendy being accidentally swept off to Tolkien's Mordor instead of Never-Never Land.

Garbarek's conversational manner adds to the catalogue of contrasts: her sunny disposition belies the dark, elliptical nature of her recorded material and she talks about her sense of isolation as a child as if she were discussing a day by the seaside.

"I would always go on tour with my parents, and on the brief periods at home, the house was always full of musicians," she remembers. "It was very unsettling. I wanted to be one of those latch-key kids so my dad made me a pretend key to hang around my neck for school." Garbarek is pictured as a child wearing this key on the front of her album.

Garbarek was an early starter. "I was listening to Laurie Anderson when I was eight and it both fascinated and scared the hell out of me. I used to rifle through my father's record collection and play whatever he was listening to at the time."

But Garbarek was not always an admirer of her father's music. "For a long time I saw his music as being physically painful with all those squeaking and grinding noises. But something happened when I was eight. My parents took me on tour with them in Japan where the music got under my skin for the first time. I suddenly understood what it was all about."

Following this precocious epiphany, Garbarek enthusiastically threw herself into piano lessons at school but found that she was uncomfortable with the teaching methods. "It was nothing like what I had with my dad. It was always about analysing and studying the work of strangers rather than people close to me," she explains. "The fact that I can't remember anything they taught me is quite telling."

Though her voyage of musical discovery with her father never abated, it wasn't until she was 19 that she took up music again. "I was called by BMG Records and asked for a demo after someone saw me performing in a musical at college. I didn't have one so I took in this tape of improvised noises that I had made when I was 16. I went to the office and put it on and they were absolutely horrified. They told me to go into the studio and record something a little more grown-up."



Anja Garbarek: imagine JM Barrie's Wendy being accidentally swept off to Tolkien's Mordor instead of Never-Never Land

the writing of *Balloon Moods* sent her scurrying to the Norwegian mountains for a period of monastic musical study. "I realised that I couldn't work with other people at that point as I didn't want them to inflict themselves on my picture. As soon as I was alone I was inspired to listen and write."

Did her father offer any advice? "Of course," she says. "He has got years of experience – it would be a waste not to exploit that. He can help me out with everything from how to play a chord to what type of music I should refer to."

On her return, Garbarek requisitioned help from producer Marius DeVries, whose previous credits include Massive Attack and Madonna, to put on the finishing touches.

The resulting compositions takes in constituents of modern jazz, Eighties synth, psychedelia and performance poetry, with melodies that swerve between winsome sonnets and eerie elegies. Her style has already drawn comparisons with Björk and Stina Nordenstam.

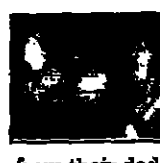
ROCK: THE NEXT GENERATION



Sean (left) with John and Julian Lennon: You can hear the four-year-old Sean gurgling on some versions of "With a Little Help from my Friends" as his dad thrashes an electric guitar. Nineteen years on, Sean is energetically pursuing a career in avant-garde pop, though reception has been muted. His half-brother, Julian, enjoyed chart success, though the excitement surrounding his early career was never matched by musical credibility.



Jeff Buckley: The son of the 1970s singer-songwriter Tim Buckley escaped the fate of the little Lennons by producing a brilliant debut album, *Grace*, 20 years after his father's death. Sadly, Jeff's career was cut short when he drowned in 1997.



The Webb Brothers: Justin and Christian Webb took close lessons from their dad, the song-writing legend Jimmy Webb, before they aired their smart, psychedelic-tinged pop.

Others living in their dad's limelight: Jakob Dylan is the talented frontman of the band Wallflowers, and Ziggy Marley has tried to ape the success of his father, Bob. Adam Cohen is following in the footsteps of Leonard, while Zak Starkey plays drums, like his father, Ringo Starr. Pete Townshend's daughter Emma has released an album, as has Anoushka Shankar, daughter of Ravi.

ROBERT HANKS ON TV



A portrait of a dwarf strip show... my first impression was that it was just a freak show

PAGE 18

NME UNLEASHED EVERY WEEK



Long live the Comedown Queen

LIVE
DOT ALLISON
IMPROV THEATRE
LONDON

DOT ALLISON had stardom in her grasp once before, when her band One Dove were made Andy Weatherall's first post-Screamadelica project. But pressures from inside and out tore the band apart. And then, poised for a new start, Allison narrowly escaped death in a car crash. She couldn't walk for four months. Her senses were morphine-muffled.

And so, for her first solo show, she's left nothing to chance. The female string section march into position as if they're in a recital. The keyboardist closes her eyes in anticipation. The guitarists are sharply dressed in clubbers'

daywear. And Dot Allison, blonde-haired and in a glittering black top, takes centre stage. Everyone is expectant. The crowd gives a cheer. And her second chance begins.

Her songs detail dreamy obsession: lovers clinging and escaping. Her voice is sugary, like Sarah Cracknell's. Nerves stop her smiling, or making more than a very occasional quip but what really makes an impression is the booming

depth to the sound she and her band produce, the thud of drums struck at the same time as bells and cymbals and strings, with her at the intimate centre. She gives a little jig as it all comes together.

There are glitches. An acoustic guitar won't plug into the sound system, and she sings several songs with an earpiece swinging free. But she isn't phased. Maybe it's because like Robbie Williams, this is in her blood (mother and aunt are musicians). It's quickly apparent that this is a polished, more-than-promising debut.

Allison shares with label-mate Beth Orton the tag of

Comedown Queen, a hangover from her use of Screamadelica's narcotic dub. But this new work has different intentions. Perhaps it's the result of slowly surfacing from her own post-crash anaesthetic haze, but the songs she plays tonight come up as if from deep sleep. "Message Personnel" begins with her singing and moving robotically chanting a changeless, careless mantra. It takes the music's slow surge to bring her to life, until guitars are lifting the song to a swirling climax, and Dot is dancing from the hip, pointing at the crowd like Diana Ross dug out of the deep freeze. The music has caused

disciplined liberation. Allison cracks a smile. All that's left is the new single, "Mo' Pop". For this song of unwilling love, Allison numbles at first, as if the lyrics are in a strange tongue. She's just waiting for the chorus. As the spotlight falls on her alone, Allison sings it, la la la made into an affirmation. Everyone hits their guitars together, the string section slides between them, and not a note is out of place. Then they're gone. It lasted 30 minutes. It's pop at its most graceful, professional perfection.



Allison: perfect pop

There's life in the old punks yet

LIVE
STIFF LITTLE FINGERS
THE JUNCTION
CAMBRIDGE

WHEN JAKE Burns kicked off "Tin Soldiers" with his trademark yelp on Tuesday night, he gave notice that SLF still have plenty of life in their digits. The band didn't even break sweat as they pounded non-stop through "Just fade away" and Jimmy Cliff's "You can get it if you really want", pausing for barely a moment before charging into "Bits of kids", the first "whoah-oh-oh" song of the evening.

After the bell-ringing jangle of "Fly the Flag", cries of "Ul-

ster" began to rise up from the 700-strong Cambridge horde, but Jake wasn't going to be rushed into anything. "I don't need to tell you I come from Belfast" he said. "So here's the first optimistic song I've ever written about it." The loping

dub-style "Last Train from the Wasteland" offered a sense of hope in the darkness, and along with the emphatic new rocker "Hope St" showed the way forward for Stiff Little Fingers.

Bruce Foxton provided his distinctive Jam bass sound and shared the vocal chores, while Steve Grantley (drums) and Ian McCallum (guitar) completed the outfit. Another frantic head-nodder "Barbed Wire Love" (their only love song according to Burns)

paved the way for more "whoah-oh-ohing". The hardcore mob greatly appreciated "Wasted life", "Roots Radics", and "Nobody's Hero", but persisted with their yells of "Ulster" as each tune crashed to its breakneck ending. Then at last they stood in awe while Jake played the hallowed, plaintive opening notes of "Alternative Ulster". Rarely does a song express such melancholy and such hope both at the same time, but that is the

achievement of this 1978 punk throwaway. Three minutes later it was all over, and SLF left the stage looking a little drained. Quickly encouraged back, they tore off again with a version of Bob Marley's "Johnny Was". Jake Burns' voice now thoroughly in gear for the frenzied plea of the chorus. Nothing was spared for "Long Way to Paradise" and "Straw Dogs" before the faithful disciples bid them a fond farewell. Anyone who got home

and discovered that all their SLF singles had been nicked will be glad to know they can get them again on a new double album called *And best of all... Hope St*. This is a band that still seems to enjoy what they do best, namely performing live. Move mountains to catch them at Glasgow. Otherwise, put your record player on repeat, and play "Alternative Ulster" again and again and again.

MAGNUS MILLS

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LATEST RECORDS BOUGHT BY NIK KERSHAW

First record
T-Rex: "Bang A Gong (Get it On)"
This was the first record that I thought was pretty special. I was a huge Bolan fan. I remember seeing pictures of him at gigs and wanting to do what he did. Bolan had something that no one else did then, or even now. He was a bit of a weirdo, and a purveyor of the glam lifestyle. I thought

he was a real poet: "Get it on, bang a gong, get it on" – poetry. It was really easy to play, which was another reason I liked it, really dumb chords. T-Rex must have had an influence on me, because I was very impressionable. If T-Rex were still around I wouldn't want them to reform – they belong to my youth. I don't want it messing up my life now.

Last record
Divine Comedy: "Fin de Siècle"
Neil Hannon has a great sense of humour, which is sadly lacking in a lot of music these days. With lines such as "an arse the size of a small country", it sounds like he's got his tongue in his cheek all the time. Everything on that album is really clever, and it's obvious that a huge

amount of work has gone into it. It's not like anything else – when it's on the radio it sticks out. A couple of tracks are particularly stunning: "Sweden" and "Eric the Gardener". I don't own a record by an artist who doesn't write their own songs. I like writers who can express themselves and have something to say. Nik Kershaw's new album '15 Minutes' is out now

THE PARADISE MOTEL

Drive

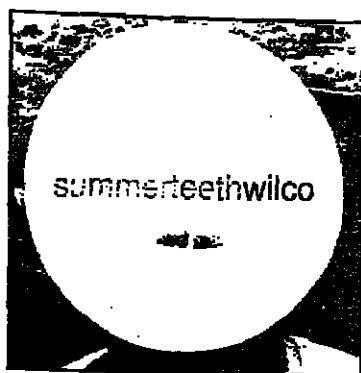
Released 1st March on 7" and CD
7" includes exclusive remix by Mogwai
Limited to 500 copies

Taken from the album 'Eight Paths' Out Now

J.P. 11.15.0

THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



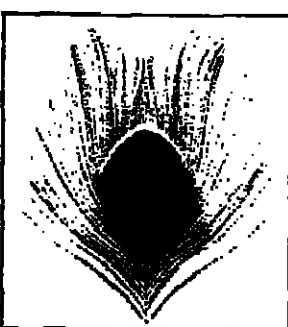
WILCO
Summerteeth
Reprise

IT'S ALREADY a vintage year for American roots-rock, with great records by Smog, Bonnie Prince Billy and Chuck E Weiss followed here by another classic from Wilco. Now slimmed to a quartet, the group sound more focused than on 1997's acclaimed *Being There* - though, thanks to the enlarged role played by multi-instrumentalist Jay Bennett, no less diverse in their approaches. If its predecessor owed a sizeable debt to the Stones of *Exile On Main Street*, this one seems more informed by The Beatles.

The songs are a series of meditations on Tweedy's emotions. But where *Being There* sought (and found) glorious reassurance of the redemptive power of rock'n'roll, *Summerteeth* reflects the more arduous side of band life - the transitory relationships, the brief flares of exhilaration, and the more lingering pangs of loneliness and self-doubt that creep in as musicians wait in departure lounges or gaze at their reflections in bus windows. Most moving of all, it deals with the devastating effect such a peripatetic life can have on a family. Behind the winsome melodies and warm textures of these songs lurk painful details of a relationship eroded by separation, as its protagonists lose the habit of each other. It's a process which leaves the songwriter dizzied by conflicting moods, trying to find out where and why things went wrong, but always stuck in the same self-defeating loops: "What you once were isn't what you want to be any more"; "The first thing that you want will be the last thing that you need".

Ultimately, only his daughter seems to provide Tweedy with any real sense of certainty, and even then there's an unbearable poignancy to the past tense of lines like "We were a family my darling".

If that all seems a little too depressing, don't be misled: part of what makes Wilco special is their knack for balancing the harshest of sentiments and saddest of moods with uplifting melodies and arrangements, a style which brings depth and resonance to *Summerteeth*.



XTC
Apple Venus
(Cooking Vinyl)

IT'S BEEN almost seven years since XTC went on strike after the lovely *Nonsuch*, and the gap has not been good for them. They've always exhibited baroque pop tendencies, and it sounds as if every moment of the hiatus has been dedicated to embellishing these 11 songs, to their detriment. The opening track "River Of Orchids" serves notice of what to expect: pizzicato strings and staccato horns tiptoe around overlapping layers of vocals, the whole song growing cyclically.

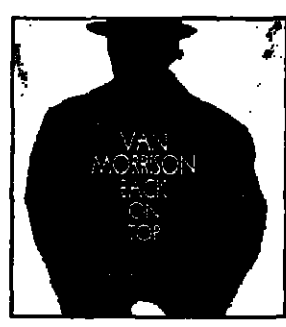
Their thematic and stylistic touchstones remain the same - there are punning rhymes aplenty, and countless moments aiming for Beatle or Beach Boy bliss. "Green Man" continues their noble record of adapting English folk imagery without lapsing into fake antiquity or dreadlocked druidism - but the addition of flamenco handclaps to the McCartneyesque whimsy of "I'd Like That" exemplifies the way virtually all these tracks are taken an idea too far. The contrast with the Wilco album is instructive: though both bands draw on similar influences, Wilco sound more natural.



THE TIGER LILLIES
Shockheaded Peter
NYC Arts/Warner Classics

THE NURSERY rhymes in Heinrich Hoffman's 19th-century classic *Struwwelpeter* have long been the most effective means of populating the nightmares of small children, and in *The Tiger Lillies* the album "Junk Opera", they get the treatment they deserve. These grisly lessons about the dangers of such childish habits as thumb sucking and picky eating are not treated as kiddie sing-alongs; both settings and delivery come from darker nooks of the unconscious, sounding like Tom Waits material fronted by Tiny Tim or Dame Edna.

The breadth of styles the trio produce from their accordion, drums, and double-bass line-up ranges from the louché polka of "Johnny Head-In-Air" and the New Orleans second-line groove of "Fidgety Phil" to the Arabic-tinged accordion vamp of "The Story Of The Man That Went Out Shooting". But it's the relish with which singer Martyn Jacques' demented falsetto greets the demise of each disobedient child with a shrieked "Dead! Dead! Dead!" that gives the project its creepy quality.



VAN MORRISON
Back On Top
Pointblank

ANOTHER YEAR, another Van album, largely indistinguishable from its recent predecessors save for the contributions of ex-Pirate Mick Green, whose guitar work is a model of taste and subtlety.

Back On Top has all the usual Morrison tics and traits - the obscure R&B references (this time to former Brit-blues Playboy, Vince Taylor), the acute sensitivity to seasonal changes ("High Summer"), the occupational ruminations ("The Philosopher's Stone") and the grumblings about the kind of goat-bite irritations one would hope he might rise above, such as "New Biography".

Sometimes, the effect is bizarre: in "Golden Autumn Day", Van's reverie is disturbed by muggers, leading him to lament, "Who would think this could happen... Among Blake's green and pleasant hills?", before musing upon the possibility of flogging the antagonists.

As ever, there are exquisite moments, particularly "In The Midnight", about how the "lonely, lonely music" he once heard has "been haunting me ever since". Long may it continue to do so.



KULA SHAKER
Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts
Columbia

"THIS IS the age of decay and hypocrisy," froths Crispian Mills in "S.O.S.", outlining a few of the age's apparently dread characteristics as "Blood transfusion, revolution, satellites on Mars". He could have chosen instead to decry the convulsion and wild delusions of silly boys with guitars, but that might have required the kind of inward inspection that wasn't entirely focused on his own navel.

Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts is a truly horrible, half-baked affair, full of bogus portents of a "new world", lent a modicum of unwarranted self-assurance by Bob Ezrin's steely production.

The really sad thing is that Kula Shaker seem oblivious of the disjunction between their message (dog-eared Eastern hippy mysticism) and their medium (gaudy Western pop-rock, the most egotistic music ever devised). This will be good news for those still lamenting the decline of Yes - though even they might balk at lines like "You're a wizard in a blizzard of mystical machine-guns". The rest of us will simply reflect that, truly, there's a seeker born every minute.

I'M SURE I SAW THEM ON A POSTER...

THE INDEPENDENT'S REGULAR ROUND-UP OF NEW BANDS

STROKE
CAMDEN BARFLY, LONDON

CAV
ELECTRIC BALLROOM,
LONDON

CUBA
IMPROV THEATRE, LONDON

Stroke could mean a variety of things: a flash of fortune, the motion of a racket, hitting a ball or perhaps the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain. But you knew what Stroke had in mind from the chorus of girly whoops that greeted their arrival. The lost little-boy looks of the guitarist elicited cooing noises from the audience as if they had been presented with a new-born

kitten, while the carefully dishevelled appearance and pin-up poses of singer Jason Kelly had them fawning at the mouth. Kelly's confidence was backed by a scorching performance. He switched on a convincingly glazed expression for the pensive numbers and strutted like a seasoned rock god for the more boisterous ones. Stroke's concoction of rock and muted

dance grooves displayed anthemic qualities that would have been more at home in a stadium than the diminutive dimensions of the Barfly. Their songs largely stuck to a winning formula of slow-burning introductions comprising shimmering keyboards and pared-down guitars, before building into a mighty barrage of grinding basslines. As it turned

out, their unwavering self-belief was entirely justified. If Courtney Love ever finds herself out of a job it will be because of Cay's vocalist, Anet Mook. Wearing a sneer and a t-shirt bearing the inscription "I Suk Rok", Mook was the consummate indie icon. Her voice blended Love's throaty tones with the visceral yowl of Babes In Toyland's Kat Bjelland,

and she was backed by guitars that echoed the moody ruminations of Sonic Youth. But Cay's objective was not simply to thrust angst-ridden attitude in our faces. Compelling melodies were discernible under Mook's 30-a-day vocals while sweeping instrumental passages unveiled a refreshing capacity for reflection.

Mondays tailored for the middle classes. After a navel-gazey instrumental prelude, they steamed into a baggy number that seemed disturbingly familiar. With the anticipation surrounding the revival of baggy's true patrons next month, Cuba's pale imitation has arrived at a particularly inopportune time.

FIONA STURGES

TEL: 0171 293 2222

ENTERTAINMENT: CONCERTS, THEATRE, WHAT'S ON

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Dining Out

Celebrate Springtime with
CHAMPAGNE
PERRIER-JONET

During the month of March enjoy a bottle of this delightful champagne in the Restaurant or Bar at the special price of just £20.

L'Odéon
RESTAURANT & BAR

45 Regent Street, London W1R 7TH
Telephone 0171 287 1400 Facsimile 0171 287 1300

Gifts

Good sex...
is well-written sex

THE MEDIA ARE OBSESSED WITH GRATUITOUS SEX. At *the Erotic Review* we don't see it as a problem. Sex in our pages is never gratuitous. In *the Erotic Review*, well-known writers are unbuttoned. They appear in unfamiliar clothes. Sometimes in no clothes at all. The cover of our March issue (out now) is festooned with women: among them, Joceline Dimbleby, Anna Chancellor and Maria Alvarez. Inside they write about aphrodisiacs, talking dirty, rose petals, butterflies & birds and whipping off wimples, though not necessarily in that order. Sex in *the Erotic Review* is literate, witty, erudite and rude. Our only criterion is that it be well-written. We have our standards. Subscribe before 17th March and receive the next 10 monthly issues for only £20. That's 20% less than you'd pay at WH Smith. If they'd sell it. Please note for over 18s only. To subscribe now for your annual subscription send a £20.00 Cheque (to 'EPS') or VISA/Mastercard/Amex/Delta/switch details to: EPS, Dept WVN, PO Box 2712, London W1A 5AY. Freephone orderline 0800 026 25 24 (quote Dept WVN) Fax: 0171-437 3528. Or browse our website at <http://www.eps.org.uk>

THE Erotic REVIEW

Entertainments

OFFICIAL: HIGH STREET PRICES FOR CDs ARE A 'RIP-OFF'

Records at Cost

Even ordinary mail order prices of CDs don't give you the ultimate saving on CDs that WSL offers you. Now you can buy your CDs at dealer's cost price plus a small handling charge. Only WSL - offering a mail order service for more than 40 years - can offer you such low cost listening. So why not see what savings you really can make by checking our prices? White, phone, fax or e-mail today for full details without obligation.

Send me full details of all WSL CD Services I enclose 2 x 1st class stamps for speedy reply

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

WILSON STEREO LIBRARY LTD
PO BOX 21 LEWISBOROUGH, EAST SUSSEX TN39 0JZ
TEL: 01424 714334 FAX: 01424 710022
E-MAIL: WILSONSTEREOLIBRARY@COMPUSERVE.COM

Antiques/Fine Art

FINE ANTIQUE DINING TABLES

A good selection of 19th century mahogany extending dining tables always in stock

Hill Farm Antiques
Leckhampton, Berks
01488 63541/638361

Library and writing furniture also usually available. We endeavour to find the table you require.

ANTIQUARIAN DESKS

Large stocks of old desks, Oak, Mahogany, Walnut, Victorian, Edwardian, Rolltop, Cylinder, Partner's, Dicksons and Pedestal Desks, also Dining Tables in stock.

DON SPENCER ANTIQUES
WARRICK
01926 499857
01926 407989

MOBILE 08365 25755
Old desks purchased
36A Market Place, Warwick
(Formerly Village Antiques Centre)
www.antiq-dep.co.uk

Concerts

SIXTIES GOLD CERRY
* & THE PACEMAKERS

MERSEYBEATS

THE FORTUNES

MIKE PENDER'S SEARCHERS

8 SWANSEA	Grand Theatre	01792 475715
9 BIRMINGHAM	Edmund Hall	0121 212133
10 DUNDEE	Royal Concert Hall	0141 287 5511
11 GLASGOW	Eden Court Theatre	0468 232534
12 INVERNESS	Southwest Theatre	01794 549494
14 SOLIHULL	Leam's Centre	09452 278178
17 HEREFORD	Leam's Hall	01792 324686
18 BRISTOL	Clifford Hall	01202 351135
21 SHEFFIELD	City Hall	0114 228 9789
22 LIVERPOOL	Victoria Theatre	0151 494 5559
23 HALIFAX	Grand Opera House	01904 678118
24 YORK	St Mary's Theatre	01904 678118
25 BRENTWOOD	Centre	01277 262616
26 TRURO	Hall for Cornwall	01752 262616
28 HANLEY	The Regent	01256 278777
29 IRVINE	The Magon	01294 278881
1 BRIDGINGTON	Spa Royal Hall	01262 670528
2 CARLISLE	Centre	01228 625 223
4 CHELTENHAM	Town Hall	01246 227977
5 DERBY	Assembly Hall	01332 253800
7 LIVERPOOL	Royal Concert Hall	0151 709 4321
9 PORTSMOUTH	Golden Hall	01323 824535
11 HASTINGS	White Rock Theatre	01424 781000
12 HIGH WYCOMBE	Swan Theatre	01494 512000
13 LEAMINGDON	North West Theatre	01827 870000
15 IPSWICH	Regent Theatre	01472 261480
16 BOURNEMOUTH	Pavilion Theatre	01202 456456
19 SUNDERLAND	Empire Theatre	0191 514 2517
20 BLACKBURN	King George Hall	01524 585281
21 DERRY	The Rialto	01504 268516
22 BELFAST	Waterfront Hall	01232 334455
23 LONDON	Palladium	0171 494 5559
25 BRIGHTON	The Dome	01323 707709
26 TUNBRIDGE WELLS	Assembly Hall	01892 330612
27 CROYDON	Pavilion	0181 488 9291
28 GUILDFORD	Chie Hall	01483 444 133
29 COXFORD	Apollon	01865 244544
30 SCARBOROUGH	Forum Theatre	01723 365789
JUNE 5 CAMBRIDGE	Corn Exchange	01223 357851

FISH CENTRAL
145-151 Central Street
London EC1V 9AP

Reservations 0171 253 4970

"The Place to be!!" - *The Telegraph*
Camden New Journal Aug 1997

"Do not eat here unless you are seriously hungry."
Chris "Cassidat" Higgins *Condé*
"Excellent value" - *Time Out* November 1995

"The best fish and chips in central London"
- *ES Magazine* November 1996

Also on offer are our grill fish, steaks, chicken, and more.
Daily Special Fully Liquefied

Guided Walks & Tours

Notting Hill Housing Trust's
Great Moroccan Cycle Challenge

24-31 October 1999
in aid of London's homeless

Phone Matthew Hodges (Events Coordinator)
on 0181-357 5135 or email: mahodges@notting.org

Leisure Activities

RAQS SHARQI
EGYPTIAN
BELLYDANCE
INTRODUCTION
WORKSHOP

Sat 27th March
11am-3pm
at Queensbridge
Leisure Centre (E8)
Tel: 0181 986 2936

Channel 4 are looking for
NEW STEPFAMILIES for a documentary series.
Are you about to become a stepfamily or
has a new parent or child recently moved
in with you?
For more information,
call VICKY in complete confidence on:
0171 482 3999

Publishers

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, non-fiction, biography,
religion, poetry, children.
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED
WRITE OR SEND YOUR
MANUSCRIPT TO:
MINERVA PRESS
2 Old Broad Street
LONDON EC1M 6JG

HERITAGE ANTIQUES FAIRS

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL LONDON
1 Hamilton Place, Hyde Park Corner. London W1
Sunday 7th March

REMBRANDT HOTEL
11 Thurlow Place. London SW7
Sunday 14th March

LONDON HILTON HOTEL ON PARK LANE
22 Park Lane. London W1
Sunday 21st March

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL LONDON
1 Hamilton Place, Hyde Park Corner. London W1
Sunday 28th March

All fairs open from 11am - 5pm
Tel: 0171 624 5173

ST. JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE
Smith Square, SW1W 9AT Tel: 0171-222 1061

ROYAL HOLLAND Y ORCHESTRA Matthew Taylor cond.
Helen Field piano. Linnéa Svensson Dance Opéra.
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4; Macnab: Symphony No. 4
Scores by The Royal Foundation & The Royal Philharmonic Foundation
INVITATION AU VOYAGE SIMON OYER piano. DANIEL
NORMAN tenor. Introduced by ROBERT SCHWARTZ
Works by Poulenc, Henckell, Macnab, and others.
£15 £10 £5 (incl. 10% discount)

THE KING'S SCHOOL CHORUS & SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Simon Anderson, Colin Vickers cond. Works by Vivaldi, Britten,
Villa-Lobos, Mendelssohn, Berlioz, Fauré and de Falla
£15 £10 £5 (incl. 10% discount)

ROYAL GALA CONCERT in the presence of The Queen and
Duchess of Gloucester. Featuring Liza Minnelli, John Lill piano, R&M
Chamber Orchestra, Moscow Mammalians cond. Works by
Rachmaninov, Shostakovich, Mozart & Haydn £25 £20 £10 £5
(Book by Simon Williams also in aid of the Campaign for Access to the Arts)

To advertise in this section please call the
Entertainment Team on 0171 293 2330/2028.

NEW FILMS

BELOVED (15)

Director: Jonathan Demme
Starring: Oprah Winfrey, Danny Glover
If film lives in a boldly naturalistic plane, prose inhabits an altogether more oblique and shadowy realm. And so Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's multi-layered Pulitzer Prize-winner was always going to make for an uneasy marriage; hopping shakily between upfront dramatics and mysticism, Oprah Winfrey stars as an escaped slave struggling to cope with a visitation from a bewitched voodoo child (Thandie Newton) who may (or may not) be the ghost of her dead daughter. Still, there's much to admire in *Beloved*'s three hours of middle-class fabulist take on black oppression, its gumbo of pungent human drama with overheated horror-flick shenanigans. Heartfelt acting and a vibrant visual sense paper over all manner of cracks. **West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village. And local cinemas**

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)

Director: Thomas Vinterberg
Starring: Ulrich Thomsen, Helge Mortensen
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. **West End: Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Screen on Baker Street**

KINI AND ADAMS (NC)

Director: Idrissa Ouedraogo
Starring: David Mohio, Vusi Kunene
The first English-language offering from acclaimed Burkina Faso director Idrissa Ouedraogo, *Kini and Adams* looks to spotlight a career

in transition. This African odd-couple comedy turns its back on Ouedraogo's traditionally stark, folk-tale milieu, and ropes in two professional actors in David Mohio and Vusi Kunene's squabbling adventures. But the director's sonful style is stymied by a script that is, at times, clankingly schematic and crudely drawn. The natural magic slowly seeps away. **Repertory: National Film Theatre**

THE 39 STEPS (PG)

Director: Alfred Hitchcock
Starring: Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll, Godfrey Tearle, Peggy Ashcroft, Lucie Mannheim
Filmed back in 1935, *The 39 Steps* stands proud as the most polished pic of Hitchcock's early, British period (although *The Lady Vanishes* comes awfully close). Thereafter, he would light out for Hollywood and his films would become both more glossy and more morally oblique. *The 39 Steps*, by contrast, offers classic *Boys' Own* adventure, riffing off John Buchan's source novel to produce a gababout spy yarn that hurls Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll's hand-cuffed-together runaways into a Scotland that's bursting with oddball eccentrics. The film is as light and bracing as oxygen: all witty twists, throwaway lines and crisp observations as it builds towards a climactic crescendo at the London Palladium. Legend has it that Hitchcock insisted on hand-cuffing Donat to Carroll before filming began, just so they could get used to being together, and then ran off with the key. Tsk, those auteur directors. Never too highbrow for the odd playground prank. **West End: Barbican Screen**

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AFFLICTION (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Renoir**

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

A Bug's Life sees humble insect Flick joining a flea circus in an effort to save his community from marauding grasshoppers. **West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas**

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's single-mum, her two daughters in tow. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role and the child stars are startlingly good. **West End: ABC Swiss Cottage, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: Well Hall Coronet**

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Oscar-nominated actresses Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson, sustains Anders Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters. **West End: Curzon Soho Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas**

HOLY MAN (PG)

Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a scumbag TV executive. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses spiritual wanderer G (Eddie Murphy) as a frontman on his shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons. Parts of *Holy Man* are very funny, but the film never quite finds the right tone. **West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas**

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)

Essentially this is *Shirley Valentine* with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slide-show of tourist-brochure visuals. **West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas**

JACK FROST (PG)

Michael Keaton stars as a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and gets reincarnated as a snowman. Formula family fun. **West End: UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas**

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)

In Roberto Benigni's comedy, the writer-director takes centre-stage as a clowning Jewish bookshop keeper in fascist Italy. He is spirited off to the death camps and strives to convince his son that it's nothing more than a game. **West End: Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas**

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, Jane Horrocks perfects Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy. Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push *Little Voice* through to the final curtain. **West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas**

LOVED (15)

Erin Dignam's *Loved* has been collecting dust on distributors' shelves for nearly two years, not because it's bad, but because it's so subtly unclassifiable. Robin Wright Penn plays an abused ex-girlfriend called upon by lawyer William Hurt to testify against her brutal former boyfriend. *Loved* paints troubled relationships for what they are: complex, charged and inextricably entwined. **West End: ABC Piccadilly**

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas**

PAINTED ANGELS (15)

The angels are whores; the paint from the gloomier end of the palette. Jon Sanders' revisionist western revolves around a frontier brothel presided over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam. Over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam, over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam. **West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas**

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)

Riffing off the template of her earlier *Sleepless in Seattle*, director Nora Ephron ushers her favourite pairing of Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan through a contrived romantic comedy that's zapped out of its old-fashioned rut by a shrewd Internet plot hook. **West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas**

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (18)

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from *In the Company of Men* director Neil LaBute, which looks like a carbon copy of the director's debut. **West End: Metro, Virgin Haymarket. Local: Elephant & Castle Coronet**

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Festen (15)

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy (right) concerns the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the centre of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.



The Thin Red Line (15)

Terence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, adapted from Russell Banks's novel, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

The Opposite of Sex (18)

Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, shooting from the lip and causing all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her mild-mannered half-brother (Martin Donovan).

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen

(Duchess Theatre, London)
Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 7 Aug

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre, London)

Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

The Memory of Water

(Vaudeville Theatre, London)
Alison Steadman pulls off one of the funniest, truest drunk scenes ever in Shelagh Stephenson's fine play (right) about sisters brought together for their mother's funeral. To 22 May



The Dispute (The Other Place, Stratford)

Marivaux's mordant 18th-century play about a sexual experiment is brought to life in this RSC/Lyric Hammersmith co-production. To 20 Mar

A Passionate Woman

(Leicester Haymarket)
Genuinely funny and moving, Kay Mellor's play is much more than a *Shirley Valentine* re-run as penned by some cut-price Alan Bennett. To 20 Mar

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite *melanges* of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)

Photographs 1994-98: Huge, wide-vision, high-contrast, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world. *Ends Sun*

Peter Doig & Udomsak Krisanamis (Fruitmarket, Edinburgh)

Two painters collaborate. Doig's sizzling, curdling, overloaded landscapes mix with Krisanamis's collages of cultural detritus and noodles. To 27 Mar

Richard Deacon (Tate Gallery, Liverpool)

"New World Order": more curvaceous assemblages of wood, metal, glass and plastic - some gigantic, some humble - by the noted Eighties sculptor. What do they mean? No one knows. To 16 May

Disasters of War

(Wolverhampton Art Gallery)
Three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot. Goya and Otto Dix. Black-and-white visions (right) from the blackest of times. To 20 Mar



TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm
The Thin Red Line 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.10pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322) (from Term)
@ Piccadilly Circus
The Thin Red Line 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.10pm
Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 11.10pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester
Square
Affliction 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester
Square
Piccadilly Circus
Hideous Kinky 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.15pm, 10.20pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham
Court Road
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm
You've Got Me! 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-388 8891) @ Moorgate The
39 Steps (1935 Version) 6.30pm, 8.40pm
You've Got Me! 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Soane Square
Festen 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-461 3323) @ Clapham
Common
Festen 1.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm
The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm
This Year's Love 1.45pm, 4.40pm, 7.40pm, 10.40pm, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
La Vita e Bella 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CURZON NINEVAH

(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park
Corner/Knightbridge
Elizabeth 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255) (12noon-6pm)
@ Leicester Square
Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
La Vita e Bella 1pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
Meet Joe Black 12noon, 3.40pm, 7.20pm, 11pm
The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 10.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate Days of Heaven 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 10.15pm
The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.50pm

METRO

(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus
Perdita Durango 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
You've Got Me! 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill
Gate
Shakespeare in Love 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870-050007) @ Camden Town
Beloved 7.50pm, A Bug's Life 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.35pm
Enemy of the State 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.35pm
Durango 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.35pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm
The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0870-050007) @ Piccadilly Circus
Stepmom 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington
Beloved 8.30pm, A Bug's Life 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm
Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 2.45pm, 5.15pm, 7.45pm, 10.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0870-050007) @ Piccadilly Circus
Stepmom 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0870-050007) @ Swiss Cottage
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON TITANIC TOWN

(0870-050007) @ Titanic Town
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON TROCADERO

(0870-050007) @ Piccadilly Circus
Stepmom 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0870-050007) @ Victoria
Beloved 1.45pm, 7.45pm, A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm
Hideous Kinky 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.45pm,

FRIDAY TELEVISION

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 5 March 1999

ROBERT
HANKS



The PDZOK. We see on TV one so uniformly pretty that it is easy to take pretentious for granted. In real life on a daily basis, we waste happily through a daily ocean of flab and scars and scurf much of it on our own, and we wonder cheerfully why people who would look grotesque and out of place in *Made in Heaven*, but TV is a little oasis of slimness and clean skin. So sometimes as a viewer, when you watch a program like the Playboy's Field (BBC), Jay McInerney's drama about the members of a women's football team, I hope this doesn't sound as if I'm saying that the cast are ugly—most of them could, I imagine, look more than presentable if they put their reservations about Ricky Tomlinson. But the women, in particular, are aesthetically ordinary in a way that most soap operas do all their ostentatious realism, would never dare to show; they have scrubby hair, faces, small, unmade-up eyes and cheapish clothes.

BBCI

6.00 **Business Breakfast** (9:00-9:40) **7.00** **News** (T) (43:59) **8.00** **Killy** (S) (T) (26:22-27) **9.45** **The Vanessa Show** (S) (T) (73:00-84:59) **10.55** **News** (T) (43:59) **11.00** **News** (T) (73:00-84:59) **11.05** **Change** (T) (S) (33:42-40) **11.15** **Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (S) (T) (33:13-38) **11.45** **News** (Programs News: Weather (T) (73:52-27) **12.00** **Call My Bluff** (S) (4:30) **12.30** **News** (T) (43:59) **12.35** **The Weather Show** (S) (T) (73:52-27) **1.00** **News** (Weather (T) (43:59) **1.30** **Regional** (T) (S) (85:59) **1.40** **Neighbours** (T) (S) (85:59) **1.45** **Neighbours** (T) (S) (85:59) **1.50** **Neighbours** (T) (S) (85:59) **1.55** **Neighbours** (T) (S) (85:59) **2.05** **Through the Airports** (S) (T) (71:30-38)

BBQZ

7.00 Children's BBC, **Pingu** (tr) (7/40398), **7.05**
Teddybears (tr) (6/30768), **7.50** **Stonks** (tr) (6/30769), **7.50** **1st-Mania**
 (tr) (5/30592), **8.00** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70322), **8.20** **1st-Mania**
 (tr) (5/30592), **8.30** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70323), **8.50** **Pingu** (tr) (7/40398), **9.00** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70324), **9.10** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70325), **9.20** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70326), **9.30** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70327), **9.40** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70328), **9.50** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70329), **10.00** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70330), **10.10** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70331), **10.20** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70332), **10.30** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70333), **10.40** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70334), **10.50** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70335), **11.00** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70336), **11.10** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70337), **11.20** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70338), **11.30** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70339), **11.40** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70340), **11.50** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70341), **12.00** **Cartoon Story** (tr) (6/70342).

ITV Carlton

8.00 GMTV (5086785).
8.25 Trials (S) (T) (R24944). **10.30 This Morning** (T) (5378782). **10.45 The School** (7550786). **12.30 News**: Weather (T) (345678). **1.00 London Today** (T) (31724). **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (S) (T) (653527). **2.15 Home and Away** (S) (T) (653586). **2.45 The Heart of the Matter** (S) (T) (653898). **3.15 ITV News Headline** (4061018). **3.20 London Today** (T) (4091259).

Channel 4

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (5667/9).

8.00 Channel 4 Schooler On Line (632285/5), **8.25 Schoolers On Line** (638124), **8.30 Eureka** (603067/9).

9.45 The Big Breakfast (S) (5667/9).

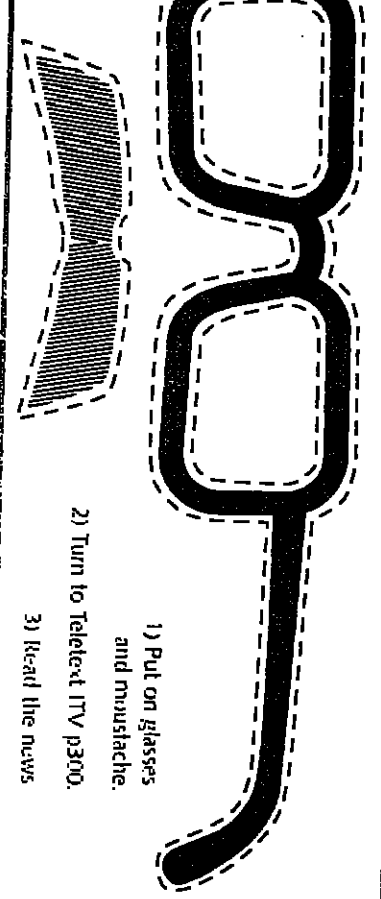
Comedy (839926), 10.00 The Complete
Comics (839926), **10.15 Enter the Matrix Zone**
(851863), 11.00 The Technology Programme (346222/2)
(515) Stage One (3405/4).

11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8922), **12.00 Seaside Street** (7).

Channel 5

6.00 S Newsnight (P) 0529-2330, **7.00** *Wheelhouse* (P)
(S) (T) 0520-04, **7.30** *Millers* (S) (T) 0728-68, **7.55**
Wentworth House (P) 0739-68, **8.00** *Blackadder* (P)
(Z) 0739-21, **8.30** *Duplications* (P) 0740-00, **8.55**
5.00 *Murphy* (L) 0431-69, **9.25** *Russell's Gang* (S)
(P) 0738-59, **9.50** *The Quail* (Wholly) *Show*
Postcards (45589-0), **9.50** *The Quail* (Wholly) *Show*
(P) 0738-59, **10.30** *Sunset Beach* (S) (T) 0325-82, **11.15**
Lezard (S) (P) 0630-31, **12.00** *S* *News* (at Noon) (S) (T)
(P) 0739-00, **12.30** *Family Affairs* (S) (T) 7352-30, **1.00**
The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) 0529-44, **1.30** *The*

your very own
News at Ten
newsreading kit.



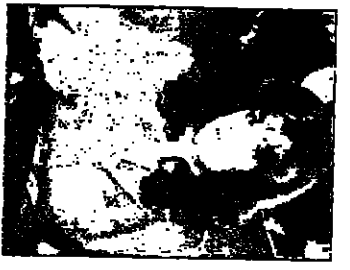
- 1) Put on glasses and moustache.
- 2) Turn to Teletext ITV p300.
- 3) Read the news

Teletext

HEADLINES WHENEVER YOU WANT THEM

COMEDY OF THE DAY

MURDER MOST HORRID (span BEC, right) This uneven new series of murder-revisited Dutch TV shows confronts with one of the better offerings. Pinned is a village WPC, with theatrical yearnings who is snuffed by a local CID officer at the start of the dramatics society and chosen to investigate an American gangster's end. The plot is to infiltrate a group of film makers paying a business call to London. Highly unlikely, of course, and played with great gusto by French and ex-stars Jeanne Tripplehorn, Tom Berenger and Martin Mulligan. The script is by Jan Cauter.



FILM OF THE DAY

[illegible]

As Good as It Gets

Comfort on
the water.



THEYSEN CURRY OF GILBERT CURRY

[illegible]

١٥٥٩١١٥٥